

Steele, Elizabeth

The Memoirs Of Mrs. Sophia Baddeley, Late Of Drury-Lane Theatre In Six
Volumes

Bd.: 6

London (1787)

P.o.angl. 398-5/6

urn:nbn:de:bvb:12-bsb10750302-3

THE
MEMOIRS
OF
Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,

LATE OF DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

BY
Mrs. ELIZABETH STEELE.

A NEW EDITION.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. VI.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the AUTHOR,

And sold by all the Booksellers.

M.DCC.LXXXVII.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.



THE
MEMOIRS
OF
Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,

LATE OF DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

BY
MRS. ELIZABETH STEELE.

A NEW EDITION.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. VI.

L O N D O N:

Printed for the AUTHOR,
And sold by all the Booksellers.

M.DCC.LXXXVII.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.



THE
MEMOIRS
OF
Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,

LATE OF DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

BY
MRS. ELIZABETH STEELE.

A NEW EDITION.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. VI.

L O N D O N:

Printed for the AUTHOR,

And sold by all the Booksellers.

M.DCC.LXXXVII.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.



THE
MEMOIRS
OF
Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,

LATE OF DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

BY
MRS. ELIZABETH STEELE.

A NEW EDITION.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. VI.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the AUTHOR,

And sold by all the Booksellers.

M.DCC.LXXXVII.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

M. D. O. R. S.

The General Register

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

THE
MEMOIRS

OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.

THREE of these ten men, were left in possession of my goods, and we were handed to our carriage; not by his Grace of——my Lord——or the Honourable Mr.—— but by the bailiff and his six followers. Off we were carried to Vere's in Southampton-street, and the story was all over the town in a few

A 3.

hours.

hours. When we got to the officer's house, we procured a dining-room to ourselves, at eight shillings a day, besides our current expences; and we had now leisure to consult what was best to be done. I thought it prudent to have the opinion of some able counsellor, to look into the mischief we had brought upon ourselves. We applied to one, and he told us there was no remedy, but to pay the money, or continue in custody till term-time, which was six weeks to come; when we might move the court on affidavit, that when we signed the bond, it was only for seven hundred pounds. Pay the money we could not; and to keep Mrs. Baddeley shut up for six weeks would destroy her. I therefore bailed the writ against me, and was at liberty to go out

out. With all Mrs. Baddeley's timidity, with all her pride, she was far more reconciled to this event, than I could possibly suppose she would have been. I proposed, therefore, leaving her for a while, and trying what I could do to get her out, by going among her friends. The first person I applied to, was Lord Melbourne; I went to his house, and saw the porter, who said his Lordship was at home, but not up; I gave him half a crown, and told him I would write a letter, and begged he would deliver it into his Lordship's own hands, which he promised. On this I returned to Grafton-street, and found one of the bailiff's men in my parlour. I told him he must not sit there, for I had business; but he might order a fire in any other room.

room he pleased : the fellow left the room, and I wrote to Lord Melbourne, saying I had something of great moment to tell him, and wished to see him. He came to me directly, and when I related the story, said, she had brought it on herself, and he would not advance her a single guinea. All I could say in her behalf, was to no purpose ; he was resolute and went away, and desired he might be no more applied to on the subject. I then sent for the coach, but was told Mr. P. had taken possession of it, and I could not have it. Thus disappointed, I put on my hat and cloak, and went to Lord Coleraine, saw him, and told my tale to *him*. He said, he was not sorry for it ; that she was rightly served, and that he would not give her a shilling.

I then

MRS. SOPHIA BADDELEY.

I then asked him to pay me what he owed me, and he refused this likewise, and began to sing. This so enraged me, that I left him without any ceremony. Who to apply to next I did not know, and yet I was unwilling to return, without doing something for her. My next application was to a friend of her's, who begged his name might be kept a secret, and on this account the reader will excuse my mentioning it. I saw this friend, and requested him to point out some mode, to enable me to get her out of that place. He promised me to open a subscription for her, among her friends, at Almack's, and did not doubt but he should get money enough to release her in a few days. He would give one hundred pounds, he said, if

if the rest would follow. Here now my reader will see the mean and pitiful resentment of the *Right Honourable* Charles James Fox. He must recollect that this gentleman was one among the many solicitors for her favours, but meeting with a repulse upon that occasion, was determined now to revenge it; and when the subscription was proposed, Mr. Fox was present, and opposed it in the strongest terms; said, her distress, if true, was only what she richly merited, but that he conceived it to be a trick, and an imposition on her friends; and he hoped she would be sent to Newgate. In consequence of this, the subscription fell to the ground. Foiled in this plan Mrs. Baddeley wrote to the Duke of Northumberland. His Grace was
frightened

frightened, and said, the letter required no answer. I waited on Lord Harrington, and saw him, who said he could not conceive how a married lady could be held in custody for debt, and that it was not prudent to advance money on such impositions; that it was best to be easy where she was, and try the matter in term-time. I told the Duke of Queensberry of it, and he was of the same opinion; in short, I went to more than thirty of these *noble* friends, who had so often said, they were ready to devote themselves to her service, and lay down their lives and fortunes in her cause; and could not get a shilling from any of them, though I pleaded hard, and took letters to them from her. The sum she was in custody for absolutely
frightened

frightened them. The third day after her confinement, I thought of another plan; which was to draw up a letter for a subscription, and try how I could succeed this way; I did so, Mrs. Baddeley copied it, and by this means, I got near four hundred pounds, by tens and twentys, from the noblemen, below-mentioned, whom I waited on for that purpose, and who used always to notice and countenance her.

The following is a copy of her letter.

“ Mrs. Baddeley’s best respects to
“ ———, is ashamed to be so trouble-
“ some; begs leave to assure him, no-
“ thing but absolute distress should
“ compel Mrs. Baddeley to trouble her
“ friends,

“ friends ; hopes, in a very short time, to
 “ get the better of every difficulty, and
 “ to return her most sincere thanks and
 “ acknowledgements to those, who have
 “ been so civil to think of her, in her
 “ present situation.”

“ P. S. Whatever favour you please
 “ to confer, it will come safe by my
 “ friend Mrs. Steele.”

	£.		£. s.
Lord Derby -	20	Lord Falmouth	10 0
Lord Harrington	10	Lord Seaford	10 0
D. of Marlborough	10	Lord Villiers	10 0
D. of Devonshire	20	Duke of Leeds	10 0
M. of Carmarthen	10	Sir J. St. Aubin	10 0
Duke of Ancafter	20	Lord C. Spencer	10 0
Duke of Rutland	10	Lord Barrington	5 5
		Carried forward	165 5
VOL. VI.	B		Duke

Brought forward £. 165 5

	£.		£. s.
Duke of Northum.	20	W. E. of Chatham	5 5
Lord Lincoln	10	Marq. of Lothian	5 5
Lord Lyttleton	20	Lord Talbot	10 0
Hon. G. Hobart	10	General Keppel	10 0
Hon. T. Stanley	20	Admiral Keppel	10 0
Mr. Sheldon	10	Gen. Phillipson	10 0
Lord Pigot	50	Lord Ashburnham	5 5
Lord Harcourt	10	General Moncton	5 5
Lord Clanbrazil	10	Mr. Egerton	10 0

Total £. 396 5

Here I left off, and waited on Mr. John Damer, who was out of town when I first went about; and, on telling him the whole story, he said, “ I will
 “ give you five hundred pounds for
 “ yourself, to release your goods, and
 “ then you may get Mrs. Baddeley re-
 “ leased,

“ leased, by standing the trial with
“ this d—m’d rascal; I wish I could
“ shoot him.” He had but three hundred pounds about him, which he gave me, and sent into Bond-street, and borrowed two hundred pounds more, and gave me that. “ There,” said he, “ my
“ good woman, take that, release your
“ own goods; and you shall, through
“ life, find a friend in me, for you deserve the friendship of every good
“ man, for what you have done for Mrs.
“ Baddeley; by and by, I will try and
“ do something for her.” This money I took to her, and said, I would devote it to her service. The three hundred and ninety six pounds I had given her, in parcels as I received it. I need not tell my reader how thankful Mrs. Badde-

ley was, and how happy it made her. I continued with her all the time she was in custody, and so did my friend, the lady who accompanied her to Ireland. Mr. P. had sent near twenty times to me, wishing to see me; and it was thought adviseable, that I should go and hear what he had to say: I went with the money in one pocket, and a pistol in the other, to frighten him, determining to get her discharge, some way or other. He saw me and trembled; and when I asked him, what could possess him to act as he had done, he endeavoured to excuse himself, by saying, his affairs were in so bad a way as to admit of no palliation; and he was in hopes, by this mode, to urge her friends to stand forth in her cause, which neither

ther I, nor she, had resolution enough to ask ; that he did not wish to ruin either of us ; that he had too great a regard for me to injure me, nor would he be too hard on Mrs. Baddeley, for my sake ; and if I could and would get him five hundred pounds, he would let her out. “ And what’s to become,” said I, “ of my goods ? ” He would only leave one man in possession, till I could get Mrs. Baddeley’s friends to pay the four hundred pounds. I then asked him, what he had done with her coach and horses. He replied, she should have those too, when I could get him the five hundred pounds in part ; he would let her have the carriage and horses, on paying him fifteen guineas monthly, for the use of them, and in

this case, his own coachman should drive her, and he would keep the horses at his own expence. I told him this was a hard case, but as I could bring him to no other terms, I thought it best not to make the breach wider, by saying any thing on the subject to aggravate; but told him, I would endeavour to get the five hundred pounds, provided he would discharge that part of the bond against her. He would not consent to this, but we were to meet the next day, and talk it further over. Mrs. Baddeley was delighted, to hear this favourable account, and asked the officer, how much she should have to pay *him*. He said, there would be forty pounds poundage to the sheriff, twenty pounds costs, besides the house expences, and there were six detainers

tainers to be bailed, to the amount of three or four hundred pounds. I asked the man, if he would take Mr. P. for bail. He replied, I have no objections, if Mr. P. will do it, but I am convinced he will not.

The next morning, at eight, I went again to Mr. P. and told him, on condition he would bail the detainers against Mrs. Baddeley, so as to set her at liberty, I had found a friend, that would advance him the five hundred pounds he wished. His reply was, that though he was still disposed to oblige and serve where he could do it, without injury to himself, he would not involve himself further. “If this be the case,” returned I, “she must wait till term, and
“I will

“ I will then see how much longer you
“ can detain her.” At this he said,
provided we would not return to Graf-
ton - street house, but go and live at
Hammer Smith, till such time as he was
paid the four hundred pounds, for which
he had my goods in possession, he would
release her. I promised this, as indeed
I would have promised almost any thing
to get her enlarged ; and he added, that
we must give him leave to accompany us
out of town, for a day or two, to adjust
matters, and to forget and forgive what
had passed. “ Well,” replied I, “ bail
“ her out, and you shall have the five
“ hundred pounds, which I have in my
“ pocket ready ; and, as to all the rest,
“ there will be no dispute about it.”—
He accordingly promised to be with Mrs.

Baddeley

Baddeley at one o'clock: he came, and on his saying he was sorry for what had passed, Mrs. Baddeley admitted, that what he had done was right, and was friends with him immediately, though she was far from thinking so; but, in this affair, she played her part well. Mr. P. settled with the officer, and I paid him sixty pounds costs, eight pounds fifteen shillings, the expences whilst we were there, and as he wished for some present to himself, Mr. P. advised me to give him twenty pounds, and told Mrs. Baddeley, he would lend her that sum for the purpose. This was done, the officer was very thankful, and Mr. P. had the five hundred pounds. He would not give up the bond, but gave a discharge in writing;

writing ; and congratulated her on her liberty. Mr. P. now told us, that he had ordered a post-chaise and four horses, for us and him, to take a trip a little way out of town, to make all matters up, and settle a more frugal plan of living for the future. Mrs. Baddeley did not like this journey, fearing it might be a plan to take her to the King's-bench prison. I told her, if he did, he should not live to see us go in ; for, that I had a pistol in my pocket, and would dispatch him. I said this to make her easy, though I had my dread of the same thing. However, the post-chaise came, and the servants of the house being all feed, we once more were without-side the iron bars, got into the chaise, and he ordered the boys to drive to Barrow-Hedges,

Hedges, near Epsom. We went over Westminster-bridge, and were in a panic, till we saw ourselves out of sight of the prison we so much dreaded ; then we got into tolerable spirits, and paid some attention to what he said. He made a thousand apologies for his conduct, laboured to excuse himself, by swearing it was ultimately done, with a view to urge Mrs. Baddeley's friends to stand forth in her cause, and saying he was unhappy it had not answered his expectations, and that she might rely upon it, he would be her friend through life. Mrs. Baddeley begged, as the matter was now all over, that he would dwell on it no longer, and said, the only inconvenience to her would be, that she should be ashamed to go

go into public again for some time.—

“ Oh,” replied he, “ it will be only a
“ nine days wonder.” He wished to
know who advanced her the money, but
she would not tell him.

We reached Barrow Hedges before
dark, and supped. Lord Bateman, who
was master of his Majesty's hounds, was
at this place, and the hounds with him ;
and, hearing Mrs. Baddeley was there,
he sent his compliments, and if not
engaged, would be happy to wait on
her. She sent word, in answer, that she
had a friend with her, and Mrs. Steele,
and should be proud to see his Lord-
ship. He came, and was glad to see
her ; passed some time with us, and
told us, that if a fight of the hounds
would

would give us any pleasure, he would attend us in the morning, and shew them to us. We accepted his polite offer, and he promised to be with us at ten. Mr. P. provided an elegant supper, and prepared cards afterwards; but we declined, said we were fatigued, and wished him a good night. When we were by ourselves, Mrs. Baddeley said, “ I wish to God, he was gone; now, “ my dear Betsy Steele, it is your time “ with him; do exert yourself; let us “ hire the coach and horses at any price, “ rather than not have them from him “ again, and pray, propose it in the “ morning.” Mr. P. wanted us to stay here a week, and to let him go to town and return, and said, it should be no expence to us. We promised this, to

keep him in humour till he went, and then designed to quit the place. I frequently reminded Mrs. Baddeley of the deceitfulness of mankind, and that Mr. P. was one of those least to be trusted. She saw this, she said, plain enough, and hated them all, except her friend, Mr. Damer, who shewed his good heart, by his voluntary beneficence; that it was not to be wondered at, that people in a less station of life, could not be depended on, when Noblemen, who pride themselves in their honour, should act in such a manner; that, she now saw the world in it's true light, and would seek out for a set of new friends, for the old ones were not worth her attention. Our determination was, promise what we would, as soon as Mr. P. turned

turned his back, to go directly to Grafton-street.

In the morning, Lord Bateman came; and attended us to the dog-kennel, to shew us the hounds; ordered them to be fed before us, and had them out. He was very polite upon the occasion, and said, if Mrs. Baddeley would permit him, he would do himself the honour to call on us in town, in a few days. She told him, she should be proud to see him, and he left us. After he was gone, Mr. P. proposed a ride; said, he would stay with us that day, go to town the next, and return the day after.— Finding we could not refuse, a post-chaise and four was ordered, and we went ten miles farther into the country,

and returned to dinner. He did not spare, in entertaining us, but provided every expensive thing that could be procured. In the evening, he told us, that he should set off in the morning at five o'clock, in order to send us our coach and horses, to ride about the country. We begged he would not, as we would have it in town, at the fifteen pounds a month, as he proposed.

At eight the next morning, finding him gone, we ordered a chaise, and set off for town. When we reached our own house, a fellow, on our knocking, opened the door, held it in his hand, and said, we could not come in; for, Mr. P. had given him orders to that purpose, and he was sorry he was under
the

the necessity of obeying him. I tried to push by him, but he shut the door in my face. The area door, however, being open, I bade Mrs. Baddeley follow me, and finding the kitchen door fast below, we opened the window, and got in. I now ran up stairs, crying out, "Where is the fellow that shut the door in my face?" Two men made their appearance, and said, my servants were at Hammer Smith. I told them, they had no business there, and bade them turn out. One of them replied, he would send his partner to Mr. P. to acquaint him of our being there. "Do as you please," replied I, "I care not what you do." One of them, therefore, went out, and the other going to the door to whisper to him, I fol-

lowed him close behind, watched my opportunity, and some dancing dogs being at that instant before the house, the fellow's attention was caught with these, and I shoved him right into the street, and shut the door against him; then ran down and secured the door and windows in the area. They knocked, but to no purpose. One of them ran off to Mr. P. who flew to the house, and begged to be admitted. I told him, he should not, and it was now my turn to act with hostility. He declared, if I would let him in, the men should go away. I told him, nothing would induce to me to it, unless he would go and write me a discharge for my goods; that these fellows might no longer be in possession. He went away, and took
the

the fellows with him, and presently returned with a discharge for the execution, which he threw down the area to me. I read it, thought it sufficient, and then let him in. "Now, ladies," said he, "I think you have been even with me, for this trick exceeds all I ever knew." "No," replied I, "it does not exceed the bond, which was beyond every thing I ever heard of. You had, therefore, best say no more upon that subject. What have you done with my servants?" He said, he had sent them to Hammersmith, to make ready for our coming there. "Did I not request you," said he, "to stay a few days at Barrow Hedges?" "You did," replied I, "but home is home, and I was uneasy to be absent."

"We

“ We will now, however, move from
“ this house, and let it.” In consequence of this determination, we sent for our servants, ordered waggons, and removed our goods the next day, from Grafton-street to Hammer-smith, resolving to abridge our expences; and as, of course, by giving up our town house, we wanted fewer servants, we discharged three.

Whilst we were engaged in this business, we had a visit from Miss Young, of Drury-lane Theatre, (now Mrs. Pope) begging to see Mrs. Baddeley, to ask a favour of her. Her affairs, she said, were in a bad state, by the failure of Mr. Fordyce, the banker, who had a bond of her's for two hundred pounds
and

and upwards, which she apprehended his assignees would put in force against her, and of course her ruin must ensue, unless she shortly paid them; that she had no other resource than her benefit, which was to take place in six weeks. She came, therefore, to solicit Mrs. Baddeley's kindness, to save her in this exigence, by playing for her benefit; and she was sure, if I would interfere, Mrs. Baddeley would not refuse it. That her being so long from the theatre, and being such a favourite with the town, would ensure a full house, and enable her to discharge the bond in question. Mr. Fordyce having lent her that sum without interest, whilst he stood his ground, she had nothing to fear; but, as he had failed, the case was altered, and

and the assignees had only indulged her till after her benefit. I expressed an unhappiness at her embarrassment, and told her, I would endeavour to prevail with Mrs. Baddeley to oblige her, though her dislike to the stage was beyond all conception. The play she had fixed on, was *The Earl of Warwick*; and the part she wished Mrs. Baddeley to perform, was that of *Lady Elizabeth Grey*. She knew she had never played that part, and if the study was too much for her, she would expunge any portion of it she pleased. When she was gone, I spoke to Mrs. Baddeley on the subject, who declared she would not undertake it, for the profits of her whole night; for, she hated the stage so much, that she would never go upon it again, and
that

that I should have told her so.—“ I
“ did,” replied I, “ but she has done
“ as you did, sign a warrant of attor-
“ ney, and will be ruined, unless you
“ will oblige her; and, surely you will
“ play one night to save an old ac-
“ quaintance from ruin; I would do it
“ myself, if I could.” “ I wish to
“ God you would,” said she, “ and, let
“ us think, my dear Steele, what part
“ you shall play.” “ The only one,”
returned I, “ that I can play, is the
“ fool, which I have often done, and
“ to my cost. This occasioned a laugh,
and she said, if I wished it, she would,
but not to oblige any other person
on earth. I told her, it would oblige
me, for I promised Miss Young to
use my interest with her; and indeed,
I had

I had another motive, that operated with me, which was, the hopes of thus bringing Mrs. Baddeley, once more, back to her profession; but, this I did not intimate. Mrs. Baddeley said, “ Well then, Steele, to oblige you, “ and you only, if you will give me a “ new dress, I will undertake it.” I told her, I would, if she would confine herself to twenty pounds, which she thought sufficient. I then sent Miss Young a note, told her Mrs. Baddeley would perform the part she requested, and begged to see her on the occasion. She flew to her to thank her, but Mrs. Baddeley said, “ There are really no “ thanks due to me, for I detest the “ stage so much, that nothing could “ induce me, but the persuasions of “ Mrs.

“ Mrs. Steele, and the awkward situation of your affairs, at present so similar to my own.”—The next day Mrs. Baddeley’s name was announced in the newspapers, that she was to play for Miss Young’s benefit, and this kept her to her promise, or some new objections would in all probability have prevented it.

A few days settled us in our house at Hammer Smith, and Mr. P. let us the coach and horses at fifteen pounds fifteen shillings a month, he keeping the horses, and finding a coachman; but we were to pay him his wages. The carriage was to stand at the king of

Bohemia's Head, at Turnham green, about a half a mile from our house.

Mr. Biggs, the mercer, was the first visitant we had after our removal; and, whilst I was settling with Mr. P. was alone with Mrs. Baddeley, and made her a present of fifty pounds. When Mr. Biggs and Mr. P. were gone, she gave me the fifty pounds, and said, "There is something that will help, a gift of Mr. Biggs's; for I am now determined to get all the money I can, and play a part with the world, which I have not yet done; for, as I have seen my own folly in refusing offers, I am resolved to refuse no more." I told her, such an act would ill suit
with

with me, and I begged not to be made a confidant in the business. I proposed going that evening to Ranelagh, where, I was of opinion, she would see her friend, who begged his name might be kept a secret, and who promised the first time he met her in any public place, where he could speak to his friends, that he would endeavour to get her some money. We went there, and he was fortunately in the room; he put a sum into his hat, and by applying to a very few of his, and her acquaintance, in about half an hour, collected three hundred and fifteen guineas; and, as he would not say who were her benefactors, she did not know to whom she was obliged. On her thanking this

gentleman, he said, it was but a trifle, and had not Mr. Fox been at Almack's when he proposed a subscription for her, she would have had as many thousands.

Lord Bateman paid us a visit a day or two after, agreeable to his promise at Barrow Hedges; staid tea; and, on being made acquainted with her situation, said, he should be happy to add his subscription, and would not fail to call upon her the next morning for that purpose. The next morning he came, and gave her a hundred pounds, and said he was sorry he could not afford a greater sum. Mrs. Baddeley returned him thanks for his bounty; but, his Lordship did not forget, on a future visit,

visit, to solicit from her a reward, which she readily granted; and he was from that time admitted among the best of her favourites.

The reader will probably be impatient to hear something of Mr. Gill. He was all this time like a mad-man, but kept at a distance by her strict injunction, and a promise on his part, never to think of seeing her any where, but in the country. She would often sit down and say, "Poor Gill, how I
"pity him! He is miserable I am cer-
"tain!" She received plenty of letters from him, but wrote him but few; not being fond of writing, though she

could pen a sensible letter, and wrote a good Italian hand.

As she was obliged to study the part she had undertaken, it kept us at home for some days. She had so good a memory, and was so quick at learning a part, that I remember her being perfect in the character of *Louisa Dudley*, in the *West Indian*, in one day; and, that of *Mrs. Beverley*, in the *Gamester*, in two days; which she performed to the admiration of all who saw her. Mr. Garrick declared, that in this part she excelled Mrs. Barry: it was not a part that Mrs. Baddeley used to perform, but she got it up to oblige Mr. Reddish, for his benefit, he having quarreled
with

with Mrs. Barry, and she refusing to play it.

She was soon perfect in the part she was to play for Miss Young; and her dress, made up by herself, on this occasion, was a rich white silk, sprigged with gold and a number of French beads, made with a train. The sleeves were covered with gauze, and decorated with point-lace; with rows of beads round the arms, tied in elegant bows.

Before she made her appearance in this dress, she was desirous of having some diversion with a fortune-teller; for she was weak enough, though she would not own it, to place a confidence in
what

what these vagrants told her. She said, she was now beginning the world afresh, and, like Abel Drugger, was desirous of knowing, whether she should be lucky. She accordingly sent for Jones, the fortune-teller, in the Old Bailey, and gave him a guinea and a half, to hear what he had to say. He ran on with a great deal of stuff, as these people generally do, and among other things told her, if she would walk in St. James's Park, on the Wednesday following, (this was on the Monday,) between the hours of one and two, precisely, she would see a gentleman of a genteel appearance, rather handsome than otherwise, of a black complexion, thin and tall; that, this person would
fall

fall in love with her, and that she would know him from any other, by his having a gold chain hanging round his neck. "What he is," added this conjurer, "I don't know, but he is some
"man high in office."

She was determined to go and see the event of this prediction ; I opposed it, but nothing could prevent her, and I must go with her : at eleven o'clock, therefore, on Wednesday, the coach was at the door, and we went to the Mall, in St. James's-park, a place we did not much frequent. Scarce had we reached the further end, before this gentleman, with a gold chain about his neck, presented himself to our view, made
a dead

a dead stand, and looked at her. He had a gentleman with him, "My God!" said she, "that's the man!—The fellow who told me must certainly be the devil!" This gentleman followed her up and down the Mall, and kept his eyes fixed upon her, but said not a word. Being weary of walking, we returned to our coach, which we had left at Spring-garden-gate, where we got in, and ordered the coachman to drive to Miss Young's, who lived in New-street, Covent-garden; but, before we reached Northumberland-house, the carriage was stopped: we looked out to see the occasion, and this gentleman with the gold chain came up, and begged leave to come into the coach, as he had something

something of great consequence to communicate. We were both surprized, but admitted him. He begged pardon for the liberty he had taken, but it was not in his power to avoid it ; said he had long wished for an opportunity to be introduced to Mrs. Baddeley, and as he was now that happy man, he would explain himself. “ I presume, Madam,” said he, to Mrs. Baddeley, “ you do not
“ know me, but my name is Sayer ; and,
“ I have the honour, at this time, to be
“ one of the Sheriffs of the City of
“ London (this was in 1773) ; and
“ having frequently heard of the ill
“ treatment, you have met with from
“ sheriffs officers, as my office will enable me to protect you from such in-
“ sults

“sults in future, you may command
“my best services.” He went with us
to Miss Young’s, and was admitted with
us into her apartments. On our leav-
ing Miss Young, Mr. Sayer said, he had
an engagement to dine in the Hay-mar-
ket, but requested Mrs. Baddeley’s per-
mission to drink tea with her, to which
she then gave him an invitation, and we
set him down in Coventry-street. He
was no sooner gone, than she expressed
herself to me in this manner, “Did
“you ever see a more elegant, hand-
“some man in your life?—He has a
“soul formed for love, and now I shall
“not fear the devil; for, his being She-
“riff of London, no writ can be issued
“out, but he will know it, and pre-
“vent

“vent it’s being served, for no one will
 “dare to arrest me, when I am under
 “his protection. So bless the fortune-
 “teller ! I presume now, you will have
 “some confidence in what these people
 “say !” I told her, that I was sure, as
 Mr. Sayer was a gay man, this fellow
 must have given him intelligence of
 her being in the Park : she could not
 credit this, as she was convinced he
 would not attend to such men. “He is
 “a sensible man,” added she, “and a
 “John Wilkes to his heart, which I
 “love him the better for. I am now
 “happy beyond expression, and will go
 “home and dress to receive him.—Don’t
 “you think him handsome ?”—I told
 her, that I did not look at him suffi-
 VOL. VI. E ciently

ciently to judge of that, but I thought him an impudent fellow, or he would not have intruded himself as he did. That, she said, was owing to his great love; that Providence had sent him to make her happy, and that the fortune-teller had said so: and indeed this was enough, for what these people told her, was always law. In this absurd way did she rave till the afternoon, when he came to tea, and after it, requested her private ear. She told him, I was her bosom friend, and whatever he had to say, might be said in my presence; but he requested, notwithstanding, to speak to her alone; said, he would not detain her ten minutes, and he trusted I would not be offended. She then retired with him

him into the next room, and soon returned. When he went away, he told her, he should take the liberty to call regularly once a day, if she would permit him; to which she agreed.

Vere, the sheriff's-officer, whose house we were at, was frequently at Hammer-smith, to tell us, that the detainers against Mrs. Baddeley, not being paid, he should be ruined, if they were not settled; and, under this pretence, got from her a bond for six hundred pounds, to discharge them; that being the amount, he said, of the whole, and which, afterwards, we found to be false, for Mr. Sayer, when Sheriff, searched the office back to that period, and found the

amount of the writs to be no more than two hundred and thirty nine pounds. He obliged Vere, therefore, on the receipt of that money, to give her a proper discharge for the bond, he having indorsed it away to some of his own creditors.

Mr. P. still continued friendly in his own way, by prevailing on Mrs. Baddeley's creditors to give her time, though he advanced her no more money.

There was, at this time, a masked ball, at the Pantheon, to which we went, and there met with a person in the character of Mother Cole. Mrs. Baddeley being unmasked, she came up and talked

ed to us, and from her mentioning many of the ladies present, we were convinced it was a person of some distinction. In the course of conversation, she told Mrs. Baddeley, that she was sorry to find, by the public talk, that she had been under some embarrassments, and should be happy to be of service to her. She thanked this good lady, and begged to know to whom she was obliged for this kindness. Not caring to unmask or discover herself, she took out a card, tore it in half, and giving one part to Mrs. Baddeley, left her, saying, she would call on her in a day or two; and when she sent in to her the other part of the card, hoped she should be admitted. She entered into the con-

duct of Lord Coleraine,—said, he had got into the favour of Mrs. Garnier; and it was a pity so sweet a woman should fall a sacrifice to such a wretch. She then asked Mrs. Baddeley, if she was free from any attachment, and at liberty to see any male friend she pleased: if she was, she would do herself the honour to make herself known to her the first opportunity: she bowed an acquiescence, and it was settled that she should call at Hammer-smith the day following. At this masquerade, Mrs. Baddeley saw many of her old friends unmasked, who bowed to her, but none took any further notice, except Mr. John Damer, and Mr. R. Conway, who were as friendly

friendly to her as ever. To Mr. Conway she was never obliged for any pecuniary assistance, but he was always ready to be of use to her, in any way she could point out.

On our return home, in the morning, we were stopped by a foot-pad, in the Hammer-smith-road, not a quarter of a mile from our own house, dressed in a sailor's habit. He came to the coach window on my side, and first asked me the way to Wapping, and then demanded my money. "Yes," said I, "you shall have it;" and, with this, I struck him on the face with a truncheon I had in my hand, (the character I appeared in at the ball, having made such a thing necessary

neceffary to carry,) fo violently as almoft to ftun him, and bid the coachman gallop on as faft as he could. He whipped the horfes, and as the fellow was armed only with a ftick, we were foon out of his reach. This rafcal, immediately afterwards, attacked a farmer, who lived near Hounflow, who was then on his way, on horfeback, to Smithfield, to purchafe fheep; robbed him of fixty guineas and murdered him. We heard a screaming, but were afraid to go back. The weapon, with which he committed this atrocious deed, was a mop-ftick only, with a long nail in it, but he ftruck the poor man with it over the head, and killed him. He was apprehended and hanged.

The

The next day, came Mrs. Cole, and was introduced by means of the torn card. This gentleman, though he did not mention his name, was instantly known by Mrs. Baddeley, to be the Duke of Bolton. He told her, he had changed his sex, and was now come to make professions of love to her. He next talked of her embarrassed situation, and begged to know how much money she owed. She told his Grace, that her debts, altogether, amounted to no less a sum than seven thousand pounds. The Duke started at the sound, and said, "That is a sum indeed!" "Yes," replied she, "but three thousand pounds of it is owing to my friend here, Mrs. Steele, who advanced me money, in every

“ every exigence, and of course would
“ not distress me for it now.” “ That
“ friend,” said the Duke, “ in my opi-
“ nion, ought to be first paid.” I told
his Grace, I was much obliged to him
for his thinking so ; but requested it
might not be mentioned again, con-
ceiving from the close questions he ask-
ed, that he was disposed to pay her
debts. He enquired, very minutely, into
all the particulars respecting her situa-
tion, and staid near two hours with us ;
then got up, and saying, that her debts
amounted to too large a sum for him to
think of discharging, begged her accep-
tance of a bank-note, and left her, with
assuring her, the next time he called, he
would assist her further ; but, he never
called

called on her any more. When he was gone, she looked at the paper, and found it to be a fifty pound note. “ You
“ see, my dear Steele,” said she, “ how
“ soon even a rich man is frightened !
“ I am sorry, I told him that I was so
“ much in debt ; probably, had I men-
“ tioned a smaller sum, he would have
“ paid it. I am determined I will tell
“ no one, in future, how much I owe ;
“ for, I frightened away Lord Chol-
“ mondeley by the same means, and I
“ have never seen him since.”

The next strange visitor we had, was the Reverend Dr. Bruce, preacher at Somerset-house Chapel, a gentleman on the wrong side of sixty. When he
came,

came, he apologized for the liberty, but waited on us on business of some moment to himself. He told us, that a young man, whom he had brought up from an infant, and who lived with him, had absconded, on account of his maid-servant being with child by him, and some few other indiscretions he had been guilty of; and it laid in our power to be of service to him, “Particularly *you*, “*you* divine angel!” said he, to Mrs. Baddeley, staring her in the face with the eyes of a devotee. We were naturally surprised at this; but, he soon unravelled the mystery, by saying, it was information only he wanted, and the information of a person in our house. Mrs. Baddeley replied, if it was in her power

power to serve him, she should be happy to do it. He rose upon this, approached her, and begged that declaration might be sealed with a kiss. He saluted her, and then cried out in rapture, that she was all sweets !—"What an odour," said he, "hangs on those lips !" He sat down, and Mrs. Baddeley was ready to burst with laughter : she had not seen this old gentleman since she was a girl, but recollected him now. "Your foot-
 "man, thou angelic creature," said he to Mrs. Baddeley, "and my young
 "man, I understand, are great friends,
 "and he can probably tell me where my
 "young man is ; and, if you will lay
 "your commands on him, for that pur-
 "pose, I presume he will do it, as it is a
 Vol. VI. F "matter

“matter of serious consequence to me.”
The servant was called up, and Mrs. Baddeley said, she hoped he would not hesitate to inform the doctor where the young man was, that he enquired about, and to resolve any questions he might ask upon the occasion. “In obedience
“to your orders, Madam,” returned he,
“I will give the gentleman any information in my power, except where it
“is attended with a breach of confidence.” “What do you call,” said he,
“a breach of confidence?” “Giving
“up my friend,” replied the man.—
“You will not then,” said the doctor,
“tell me where my young man is.”
“No, Sir,” said he, “I will not; but,
“I will go to him, and deliver any
“commands

“ commands you may please to give
“ me.” “ Why not inform the doctor,
“ that he may go himself ?” said Mrs.
Baddeley. “ Because,” returned her
servant, “ I have promised my friend I
“ would tell no one ; and must, there-
“ fore, beg to be excused breaking my
“ word. The doctor is angry with him,
“ on account of a servant girl, who is
“ with child ; but, no more by my
“ friend, than by me : she has told the
“ doctor so, because he has refused to
“ marry her ; and has thus got him ill
“ will. He is a young fellow above a
“ meanness of any kind, and would not
“ tell a lie to save his life. If, there-
“ fore, he was the father of the child,
“ I am persuaded he would own it ;

“ and, as he denies it, I will venture
“ to swear he is no ways concerned in
“ the matter.” “ O, Sir,” said the
doctor, sneering, “ he is, with you, a
“ man of great consequence, and you
“ have a mighty confidence in him !”
“ I have, Sir,” replied he ; “ his con-
“ sequence with me, arises from the
“ birth which you gave him ; and my
“ confidence in him, from his own de-
“ serts.”—“ Where did you pick up this
“ knowledge ?” said the doctor. “ From
“ his mother, Sir,” replied our ser-
vant, “ who is my relation.” “ Well,
“ friend,” cried the doctor, “ if you
“ will withdraw, I will see you again.”
The man bowed and went away. Doc-
tor Bruce then addressed Mrs. Baddeley,
with,

with, "Do you see, Madam, how pe-
remptorily he declares he will not say
where my young man is!" "I must
do the fellow justice," returned she,
in this respect, and I like him for his
sentiments; and was this way of think-
ing more general in a higher sphere
of life, it would do mankind no dis-
credit; for, though I would not en-
courage him, I could not but admire
his conversation." Doctor Bruce was
of her opinion, but yet he wished to
know where to find the person he was
in search of; however, he would write
to him, if Mrs. Baddeley would let her
servant carry the letter. The old gen-
tleman staid tea, and dropping the busi-
ness he came about, directed his conver-

sation more immediately to Mrs. Baddeley ; said, he was more in love with her beauty than ever he was before ; that he was not without his favorites, and wished to live no longer than whilst he could enjoy them ; for, in his opinion, the world would be nothing without a fine woman ; “ and, your charms, my dear “ angel,” said he, “ have so enamoured “ me, that I could lay my fortune at “ your feet. Have you, my dear Ma- “ dam, any serious attachment ; or may “ I be permitted to pay my respects to “ you again ? For you may command “ both me and my fortune, which is no “ very despicable one ; and it is at your “ service on certain conditions.” Mrs. Baddeley smiled, but made no answer.

“ Are

“Are you dumb?” continued he, and getting up, said, “I must come and see.” This opened her mouth. “No, Sir,” replied she, “I am not dumb, but with wonder.” “What,” returned he, “because I am an old fellow? Don’t wonder, for age, as well as youth, must bow to such charms as you possess. I wonder you are not seated on a throne, or near one.”—— “Fie, doctor,” said she, “*you* should not talk in this manner!” “Why not?” returned he, “Scripture tells us, that King David had many wives.” In short, we all got into high glee, laughed heartily, and the old gentleman was as lavish of his compliments as a young man of twenty. He told Mrs.
Baddeley,

Baddeley, that he had heard from his young man, of the cruel treatment she had met with, from those she had reason to expect protection from ; and would not leave her, without permission to wait on her again, which she gave him, in order to get him away. He then rose, and took his leave, putting a paper with some money into her hand, which he begged her acceptance of, as a trifling addition to her subscription. The sum he left was five guineas, wrapped up in several papers, which she took in good part ; but made herself very merry at his expence, by taking off his manner and his words.

We

We sent for John up, and learned from him, that the doctor was this young man's father ; but that he had not a soul in him to do him any good, keeping him as his footman ; which the lad did not like, for he had too much spirit. " Indeed," continued he, " it is a doubt " with me, whether the doctor is not the " father of the child himself ; for he will " let no woman alone, that comes in his " way."

At this time, Sir George Warren was a frequent visitor at our house, his lady at this time living from him ; and had it not been for the reconciliation, he would have been a great favourite with Mrs. Baddeley.

Lord

Lord Barrymore, having also heard of Mrs. Baddeley's distress, called upon her now, for the first time, apologizing for his visit ; and said, his motive in waiting on her was, to know if he could be of any service to her in her subscription. His Lordship's visit, however, was not solely on that score ; he took the opportunity of this interview, to declare a passion for her, which, he said, he had endeavoured to smother for years ; that, he was sorry for the occasion that brought him there, but happy in the opportunity it gave him of opening his mind to her. Mrs. Baddeley thanked his Lordship for the honour he had done her, in noticing her situation ; said, she could not but own, she was under embarrass-
ments ;

ments ; but, that those embarrassments would not drive her to an act of that imprudence, as to listen to such things, as his Lordship was pleased to say, from a married man : that, distress led her to an attachment with Lord Melbourne ; but, that she repented it ever after ; and was never truly happy in his company, (though he had done all in his power to make her so) and, that from an opinion, it was a cruelty to his Lady.

“ Now, my Lord,” continued she,
“ this is your case ; you have an amiable
“ wife at home, and I am persuaded,
“ she does not deserve this treatment
“ from you.” “ Nonsense !” replied
his Lordship, “ do you forget Lady
“ Barrymore, as I do at present ; and
“ you

“ you alone shall be mine for ever.”

“ No, my Lord,” returned she, “ I am

“ determined to be upon my guard in

“ future ; and, if I do err, not to err so

“ as to give pain to any married lady.”

His Lordship expostulated, but to no purpose ; for she would not hear any thing on the subject ; so he took his leave, and never called upon her afterwards.

Count Belgioso, the Imperial Minister, had always respectfully noticed Mrs. Baddeley in public, during her affluence, but never called on her till now. He came in company with one of the foreign Ambassadors, and paid her a morning visit ; behaved with great politeness

politeness and attention, and said, he would, with her permission, wait on her again. She thanked him for the honour he conferred on her, and said, she should be proud to see him. He frequently called afterwards, but his visits were merely ceremonial.

Mr. Foote was at this time one of her constant visitors, and always came to see her, when he had something new to inform her of; and many agreeable hours have we passed in his company, he being always on a footing of friendship with her, till his death. Mr. Coleman, who succeeded him, at the theatre, was no less attentive to her, and offered her his service upon all occasions; as did

VOL. VI. G also

also Mr. Cumberland, author of the *West Indian*, and Mr. Hugh Kelly, author of *False Delicacy*. We saw these gentlemen two or three times a week, and Mrs. Baddeley said, it was their interest that induced authors to keep in with her, that she might exert herself in any part they might write for her ; and, that it was a customary thing in Paris, for all writers for the theatres, to court the favour of the performers. Mr. Kelly met us a day or two afterwards, at a masquerade at Ranelagh, in the character of a butcher ; and though unknown to me, was constantly laying hold of me, saying, “ What is a butcher “ without his *Steel* ? ” With Mr. Kelly, we were frequently favoured with Mr. Day’s

Day's company, now Sir John Day, who was knighted on going to the East-Indies. He sung a good song, and was very entertaining. This gentleman was a very close attendant on Mrs. Baddeley, knew how to plead his cause with success, and may be accounted as one of her favourites. He exerted himself upon all occasions to serve her, where money was not in question; and, I believe, if he could have spared it, would have accommodated her with any sum she wanted; but he was an expensive man, with a small income, and being ambitious of keeping the first company, made an appearance accordingly. Mr. Day was a patriot, and frequently came to see us, in company with Mr. Wilkes,

but not such a patriot as Mr. Sayer ; for, we always considered him as a well-meaning liberal man. In this general desertion of Mrs. Baddeley's former friends, Colonel St. John, who married Miss Bab Blaydon, sister to Lady Effex, waited frequently upon her ; and, had he not been an intimate friend of Lord Coleraine's, would probably have shared her favours ; for, he was one of her admirers, and a gentleman she thought well of. As to Mr. Gill, who was once so great a favourite, he was not noticed by her after this period, which gave him great pain, as the many letters he wrote to her will testify ; but, she was deaf to his entreaties, and inaccessible to his applications, the strongest proof, I think,

I think, of the fickleness of her disposition ; as he had never done any thing to offend her, and had parted with her, the last time they were together, in the best and most affectionate terms.

But, among all those who honoured her with their notice, I omitted to mention his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland : before his marriage, he frequented a house, at the corner of Tavistock-street, in Southampton-street, Covent-garden, known by the name of the Dunk's Head Tavern. - From this house his Royal Highness sent one day a man, whose name was Davis, with his respectful compliments to Mrs. Baddeley, and requested the favour of being permitted

to wait on her ; or, if she would indulge him by coming to him there, he should think himself obliged. Her answer was, “ Go and tell the Duke to send for “ Lady Grosvenor ; I wonder at his impudence, in sending for me to a tavern ; and as to seeing him at my house, I am too much engaged to receive his visits.” I can take upon me to say, that she never received such an application, or message from any one before, and she was so affronted at it, that she said, she would take an opportunity to tell him so, the first time she met him in public. However, when her resentment cooled, she thought no more of it.

About

About this time Mrs. Baddeley was taken ill, and sent for Dr. Turton, of whom she had the highest opinion; but she was very unwilling to take medicines, and I mention this, to introduce the following anecdote, in order to shew the danger many a patient is in, from the unskilfulness and inattention of apothecaries. Dr. Turton knowing Mrs. Baddeley's aversion to physic, made a point, when he attended her, of always seeing her take the medicines he prescribed; for he said, and said justly, that it was not his visits that would effect a cure, unless she took what he recommended. This gentleman is certainly a good physician, and always did her more good than any other physician she applied to.

One

One day, however, he prescribed some draughts, very disagreeable to take; she took one, and said, it was so nauseous that she would never take another; but on his next visit, he bade the nurse give him one, and pouring it out in a tea-cup, begged her to take it, saying, she might take a dozen of them with safety, and he was certain it would do her good. She told him, that the one she had taken, had so disagreed with her, that she could take no more. To persuade her however to it, he said, “If you
“ will take one, I will take another, and
“ this purely to urge you to it, convinc-
“ ed that it will not hurt you, but be of
“ service.” “Well,” returned she, “on
“ these conditions I will.” He imme-
diately

diately drank off one, and she the other. In two hours after this, she was worse than ever, and so bad as to be obliged to send for the doctor again. He was so ill, that he could not attend her, and begged the draughts, that were left, might be sent to him. Our man carried them, and brought back a fresh prescription, which gave her ease. The next day, Doctor Turton came, and told her of the mistake that had happened, owing to the apothecary, or his man; that the draughts which were made up for her, had been sent to another person, and those designed for that person, were sent to her, and it was a blessing it turned out no worse. “I soon found
“out this mistake,” said the doctor,
“for,

“ for, I had not left you an hour, be-
“ fore I was taken ill myself, and could
“ not attend any one of my patients.
“ Had they been sent to the person they
“ were designed for, it would certainly
“ have killed him; and so,” continu-
ed he, “ I told the apothecary, whom
“ I reprimanded severely; and it will be
“ a caution to me in future, not to take
“ draughts again unnecessarily, but
“ be more circumspect respecting what
“ I order. It is by such blunders, that
“ many lives are lost.” How forcibly
is this ridiculed and lashed, in the no-
vel of *Modern Times*, which I have men-
tioned before; and when I read the
many stories of this kind, told to shew
the ignorance and inattention of medical
practitioners,

practitioners, it brought this circumstance strongly to my mind, and I could not but subscribe to the justness of the author's satire. Mrs. Baddeley said, she was sorry she was the cause of Dr. Turton's illness, but flattered herself, it would, in the end, turn out to the good of hundreds; as it would put him more upon his guard, with respect to the incautious dispensers of drugs.

One day, when Mr. Sayer was with her, he asked her, if she was inclined to have a house in London; if she was, and would permit him to find her one, it should cost her no rent. She replied, if it was agreeable to him, she had no objection. He came the next day and told

told her, there was a good house in Cleveland-row, St. James's, in which Lady Rich lived, and which belonged to Lord Delawar, and wished her to go and see it. She went, and liking the house and situation, he took it immediately. It was a large handsome building, and the rent two hundred guineas a year. He wished me to take it in my name, lest it should get abroad to his disadvantage; but, that he would pay the rent. I did not like to do this, but Mrs. Baddeley urged me to it, by saying, it was in the verge of the Court, where she should be in no fear of the bailiffs; that, if *I* would not take it, *she* would, which she said would be the same thing. My objections arose from
an

an unwillingness to live under the same roof with him, and so I told her; but she found a way to bring me over, by saying, that if I was dissatisfied, she would never see him more. I am weak enough to acknowledge, when not instantly opposed, I can be won to any thing. “If you must live with this man,” said I to her, “and the house is to be taken, I will engage it myself; for I will keep to my resolution of never being obliged to any connexions of your’s, though my advice is not to think of it: we have but just taken a resolution to abridge our expences, and are now encreasing them again.” “That was,” replied she, “when we had but a small prospect

“pect before us ; but, Mr. Sayer has
“fallen in my way since, and has
“assured me, that he will not only pay
“the rent of this house, and the ex-
“pence of house-keeping, but every
“debt I owe, and provide for me, in a
“manner that will make me happy ; of
“course the case is different.” I doubted
whether this was in his power ; and, if
in his power, whether he would be so
inclined. “Besides,” added I, “Mr.
“Sayer is such a Wilkite, that when
“your friends know he is one of your
“visitors, they will instantly forsake
“you.” She said, they should never
know it ; and, if they did, what need
she care for the world, if she was happy ?
That Mr. Sayer was not only a gentle-
man,

man, but a man of business, and would look into her affairs, and settle them; and, that his being Sheriff, would keep the bailiffs at a distance; for he had ordered the under-sheriff, if any writs were out against her, to send him word of it. In short, through her persuasions, I took the house, and agreed to pay Lord Delawar two hundred pounds a year for it, and to purchase a good deal of handsome furniture, left by Lady Rich to his Lordship. We no sooner took possession of it, than Lord Cholmondeley made proposals to Mrs. Baddeley (as I have hinted before); but she told him, she could listen to no one, that would not agree to pay her debts. He enquired what these amount-

ed to, and he would do it, for he was over head and ears in love. She told him, that she scarce knew herself; but would inform his Lordship the next day, if he would do her the honour to call on her. He came the next day, and being told she owed between three and four thousand pounds, it immediately cooled his affection, and put an end to his pursuit, and his visits.

The next applicant for her attachment was the little Jew, Mr. Franco, whom I have mentioned before. He waited on her; said he had heard she had been under a cloud, and came to offer his assistance, and would let her have as much money as she wished. This was
said

said privately to herself; and on her asking him, what reward he expected for it, he replied, only such a return as she had in her power to grant, and she might have as many thousands as she pleased; “for, dow I be so leedle a man,” said he, “I can buy all your Lords, and have lofed you many a year; tell me den, how mosh monies you do owe, and I vill pay dem all.” “I am sure you will not,” returned she, “so ’tis in vain to mention it.” “I vill upon my honour,” said he; “derefore tell me, how mosh monies vill do.” “Four thousand pounds,” cried she. “Vore toufand pouns! dat be grate monies indeed!” replied Mr. Mordecai. “Did not I say,” said Mrs.

Baddeley, “ that if I told you, you
“ would not pay it, though you declar-
“ ed upon your honour that you would?”
“ Yes,” replied he, “ boat I could not
“ conceive you could owe so mosh:
“ vore toufand pouns! O Lord, dat is
“ a monshtruous foam indeed; it is as
“ mosh as would buy an eshtate vor
“ loife.” In short, as this sum fright-
ened Lord Cholmondeley, so it fright-
ened away the little Jew’s love; and,
he took his leave, with saying, he was
sorry his fortune would not admit of his
doing it. And after this, we never saw
any more of him.

Mr. Sayer did not live in Cleveland-
row with us, but visited us daily, and
frequently

frequently brought his friends there to dine with him, who appeared to be trencher-friends, for they lived as it were upon him; and, he entertained them chiefly with beef-stakes, which he would broil himself, on the dining-room fire; a stile of living we had not been used to, and it made such a stink and dirt, that I was ready to go distracted; and, the conversation of these people ran in invectives against the Royal Family, whom they were pleased to speak so ill of, that I have often left the room with anger; and, thought they deserved a halter for their disaffection. His whole party was equally violent, and convinced me, that these men, who call themselves Patriots, have not a grain

grain of real love for their country. However, he paid great attention to Mrs. Baddeley, and in a little time, became master of her heart. She proved with child by him, went her time, and was brought to bed of a son, whom she called *Stephen Sayer*, which I shall speak more of hereafter. During the time of his connexion with her, she shut herself up, and would see no one but his friends: indeed, all her former ones deserted her; for, as Mrs. Baddeley's great weakness was that, of telling every thing she heard, they thought it dangerous to visit her; lest this red-hot patriot should get hold of any thing they might drop in conversation with her,

her, and might put improper constructions upon it.

When Mrs. Baddeley lay in, Doctor Hunter attended her, at my desire ; Mr. Sayer being then imprisoned in the Tower, on a charge of high treason, by Captain Richardson ; and, at this time, he told us the following story. He said, he was physician to a noble family, whose daughter, a sweet young lady, of sixteen, had been seduced by a young nobleman who frequented the house, and was unfortunately with child ; that the matter was kept a secret from all, but her maid and him, whom she made a confidante in the business ; that, she carried on the deception till the time of
her

her lying by, complaining of a pain in her bowels ; and absolutely kept her bed four months, that the alteration of her person might not be noticed. “ Out
“ of compassion to this young lady,” said the Doctor, “ I was induced to favour the deception, but requested, “ when her labour came on, that she “ would not cry out ; as I would not “ have it known, that I carried on such “ a matter clandestinely, for a thousand “ guineas. I advised her to complain, “ occasionally, of the cramp in her stomach, which would be a plea for “ sending for me suddenly, when her “ pains came on. She followed my directions in this, and I was with her at “ the critical juncture. ‘ For God’s sake, ‘ Miss,’

“ Miss,” said I, “ make no noise ;” but
“ she bawled out, ‘ I will make a noise,
‘ for I can’t help it.’ And though I
“ begged her, on my knees, to smother
“ her her pains, and be silent, lest we
“ should be all exposed ; she began
“ shrieking and screaming in the most
“ violent manner ; breaking out at intervals,
“ ‘ I will make a noise, and
‘ cry out, in spite of the Doctor !’—
“ These cries brought my Lady, her
“ mother, into the room, and the whole
“ secret was out. I never,” continued
he, “ was so frightened in my life, and
“ I vowed, from that minute, I would
“ never keep any woman’s secret again.”

That

That I may not be supposed to injure the character of Mr. Sayer, by saying that he was disaffected to the present Royal Family, I will tell the reader, that by the death of Mrs. Ann Harding, in May, 1786, widow of John Harding, Esq. of Charter-house, Honiton, in Somersetshire, and who had been Sheriff of that county, I became possessed of fundry papers, and, among the rest, a parcel of letters written to him by Mr. Stephen Sayer, of which the following is a copy of part of one of them.

London, 23 March, 1771.

“ Dear Sir,

“ We are likely to have some
“ serious matters, of the political kind,
“ ere

“ ere long. Wilkes has brought the
“ Commons into a damnable dilemma,
“ by attacking his two old friends, the
“ K—g, and Lord Halifax. I hope
“ there remains some spirit of English-
“ men among us, which will soon blast
“ the men who are striving to ruin this
“ great kingdom. That you and I may
“ live to share the spoils of those raf-
“ cals, and be rewarded with what we
“ really merit, is my ardent wish, when
“ I bid you adieu !

“ Your’s most respectfully,

“ Stephen Sayer.”

One evening, we went to Hammer-
smith, and meant to stay there all night,
but Mrs. Baddeley suddenly altering her

mind, was determined to return to town. It was then ten o'clock at night, in the summer time; we accordingly sent our servant to the King of Bohemia's Head, where our carriage stood, and ordered our coachman to bring it; he sent word, the horses were littered up, and he should not take them out that night. This angered us much, and, late as it was, I begged she would accompany me, and I would answer for it, she should have the coach. She went with me, and when we came to the inn, I entered the tap-room, where our coachman was, and asked, with a loud voice, "Where is this
" fellow, that dare refuse to bring our
" coach when we order him?" He stood up, but said nothing; on which, I bade
him

him directly put the horses to, for I would have the carriage immediately. He grumbled, went to the stable, and returned, saying he had lost the key: at this I went, and with my foot burst open the door. "Now, Sir," said I, "harness the horses, and take them out." He did it, but very slowly, and on this, I gave the hostler a shilling to assist him, and the carriage was soon brought to the door of the inn. I then called to Mrs. Baddeley, begged her to get into the coach, and leave me to manage the fellow. She got in, and the coachman was ready to get upon his box. "Where is my phaeton harness?" said I to him. "In the stable, Madam," replied he. "Give me your whip," re-

turned I, "and go and fetch it, I shall
"want it in town to-morrow." He
gave me his whip, and went to the stable for it; and whilst he was gone, I
mounted the box, and drove off the
coach, as fast as the horses could gallop,
not to our house at Hammer-smith-hope,
but to the George at Chiswick, where I
stopped, and got into the coach. The
master of the house hearing a carriage
stop, came out. I told him I had sent
our coachman, who drove us there, back
to our house on business, and begged him
to put up the carriage in some place
where it could be locked up, and give
me the key, and to take care of the
horses for that night. He did so, gave
me the key, and said I might depend
on

on his care of them. I then ordered a post-chaise, and we went to town. The next morning Mr. P. called, with a, "Well, ladies, I hear you have turned coachmen!" "Yes," replied I, "and that fellow of your's shall no more drive us, for his impudence."—"Where is the coach?" said he. "Safe enough," replied I; "where you will never see it again. You thought proper to take the carriage from us, very unjustifiably, and now it is in my possession again, I mean to keep it, and not pay you any thing for the use of it." He said he would shortly convince us to the contrary, and left us. Mrs. Baddeley was pleased beyond measure, at what I had done; and a commission

of bankruptcy being taken out a few days after, against Mr. P. put an end to his connections with us. We had now many debts to encounter with; as those who had sued him for his notes, given in behalf of Mrs. Baddeley, called upon her for payment; for when his commission took place, there were debts unpaid, to the amount of one thousand seven hundred pounds: some of her creditors indulged her with time to pay them; others took out writs against her, which Mr. Sayer, by virtue of his office, prevented being served; and our house being in the verge of the court, we were tolerably at ease.

Mr.

Mr. Sayer having directed his Deputy Sheriff always to send him word, when any writs were out against Mrs. Baddeley, the following note proves this fact, it being a true copy.

“ Mr. Sayer presents his compliments to Mrs. Baddeley, and acquaints his dear love, that he has taken the liberty of sending to Mr. Reynolds, who writes, that there are two writs out against her; one by Laws. He begs Mrs. B. would not think of going to the masquerade to-night: he will come to her about eleven o’clock, and spend the evening with her.

“ If

“ If Mrs. B. has three tickets to spare, Mr. S. begs she will send them.

“ *Friday, 6 o'clock.*”

The day now arrived, when Mrs. Baddeley was to play for Miss Young; and Mr. Sayer, lest she should meet with any interruption or affront from bailiffs, determined to go with her; as by giving him the writs, when in her company, he should be fixed with them, and she would remain unmolested; and I took good care to have a number of Mrs. Baddeley's friends present to applaud her, in order to bring about an engagement. When she made her appearance upon the stage, the applause from all parts of the

the house, was so great and so loud, that it was more than ten minutes before she could begin. She played her part well, and was applauded at every pause she made. Mr. Garrick was present, and came to me, and said he was happy to see her so well received, and continue so great a favourite with the town. “You must prevail with her,” added he, “to return to us; it is an easy matter for you to do it, if you will.” “No, Sir,” replied I; “the matter is not so easy as you imagine, for she has taken a dislike to the stage; and, nothing but a wish to serve Miss Young in her embarrassed situation, would have induced her to have performed now.” He said, he would give her
an

an advanced salary; that, before she had only fourteen guineas a week, and found her own cloaths; but, now he would give her the same sum, and find her cloaths agreeable to her own choice. I told him, I would do all in my power to persuade her, but could not promise him success. He pressed me much upon this subject, and begged he might hear from me in a day or two.

As soon as the play was over, Mr. Sayer begged her to accompany him into the front boxes, where there was a seat or two vacant, by some persons going away; for the house had been as full as it could hold (pit and boxes laid together). Miss Young thanked her for
her

her kindness, and invited us to supper, but we declined. Her going into the front-boxes with Mr. Sayer, shewed her friends who it was she then noticed, which hurt her much in their opinion. Mr. Sayer was not liked by them, and he took no small pains to convince the public, that he was in her esteem, by conversing with her the whole time, taking hold of her hand, and handing her through all her friends, from the box to her carriage, where he got in with her, and attended her home. I was with Mr. Garrick, and had sent her word not to wait for me, as I would return in a chair. Mr. Garrick told me, he had heard from a gentleman, that there were bailiffs at every door, waiting to

to arrest Mrs. Baddeley and me. I told him, they might arrest her, but could not arrest me ; unless it was for a note of two hundred pounds, which I had given jointly with Mr. P. to discharge a debt she owed. Mr. Garrick said, that the attorney was with the bailiffs, and if I wished it, he would go and enquire into it. He did, and brought me word it was for two hundred pounds. “ Now,” said Mr. Garrick, “ if you will do as I “ direct you, you will get away safe ; “ which is, to dress yourself in a suit of “ men’s cloaths. There is a suit in “ which the *Irish Widow* is performed ; “ I fancy they will fit you, and I would “ have you put them on.” I took his advice,

advice, dressed myself in them, (they fitted me well,) clubbed my hair, took a sword in my hand, and walked through them all undiscovered: when out of the house, I ran for it, and met with no interruption, but from ladies of the town, in the Strand, who laid hold of me, and I was obliged to fly to my pocket to disengage myself. No coach or chair was to be got, and I was obliged to walk home. When I reached my own house, being in good spirits, I knocked at the door, and asked for Mrs. Baddeley. My servant, who did not know me, said she was at home, but engaged, and could not be seen. I sent in word that my name was Conway, and I had some business from my brother to com-

municate : I knew this was a name that would gain me admittance, and it did. I was ordered up into the drawing-room, where she came to me, and I made my bow ; but did not speak a word. She asked me my business, and I laid hold of her : this so frightened her, that she screamed as for life ; so that the Sheriff ran up to her assistance, who in me found no rival, for he instantly knew me ; and such a laugh it occasioned, that the sudden transition from fear to joy, almost overcame Mrs. Baddeley. When I related the story, she said, she should ever love Mr. Garrick for his attention ; and, when I told her of the proposal he made for her returning to the theatre, she said, “ Send
“ him

“ him word, that I will play for him,
 “ purely for his kindness to you.”

Having thus prevailed on Mrs. Baddeley to return to her profession, I was unwilling she should submit to the arbitrary disposition of Mr. Garrick ; and wished her to see whether she could get an engagement at Covent-garden. For, Mr. Garrick, though a polite man in other respects, from an idea that a manager must either ride, or be ridden, was a very tyrant behind the scenes : she said, therefore, she would sound Mr. Harris, the manager of Covent-garden Theatre ; and, if she found him disposed to engage, she should be able to make better terms with Mr. Garrick.

She wished me, therefore, to call on Mr. Harris, which I did, and not seeing him, I left a note, saying Mrs. Baddeley begged to speak with him. He politely called on her the next day; when she told him, she had some little inclination of playing again, and was desirous of consulting him upon the occasion. He was happy, he said, to hear that she was of that mind, and if agreeable to her, would engage her for the next season; as the present one, being too much advanced, the parts filled up, and the benefits coming on, would not be worth her notice. Mr. Harris, like the rest of mankind, in this visit, was struck with Mrs. Baddeley, could not help expressing his sentiments
on

on the occasion, and staid with her two hours. He called once or twice after this ; but her engaging with Mr. Garrick, as will be shewn, put an end to his visits ; for, as I was fearful, that delaying the engagement might alter her mind, I said, I would apply to Mr. Garrick, as not acting till the next season, would be only losing of time. The next morning, therefore, I sent to him, and he was presently with us ; when taking Mrs. Baddeley by the hand, said, “ You beautiful Run-away, why “ did you leave us ? ”—The terms were again repeated, on which she was to play ; and after expressing himself happy in having her again, he left us. Mrs. Baddeley said, she could have cried for

joy, to find herself so well received by all her old friends. “Now, Mrs. Steele, “you shall see,” said she, “I will re-
“turn to my business, and will be
“happy with Mr. Sayer and you.”—
Mr. Sayer was pleased with this engagement, and more particularly, as Mr. Garrick solicited it himself; which would give her an opportunity of keeping him in order. I lost no time, but went to Mr. Garrick the next day, and hastened the engagement; I breakfasted with him, and he sent for his attorney, and ordered the agreements to be instantly prepared, saying, he had some new pieces coming out, in which she would shine.

In

In a short time after this, she appeared again upon the stage; but the attention Mr. Sayer paid her in public, kept every former friend from her, but such as could be introduced to him, which were not persons of fashion; so that none of those who used to call upon her, ever left their names, or spoke to her in public; for she was never abroad without him. Lady Townshend, however, took the liberty to send to Mr. Sayer, to request the use of his gold chain, to go to a masquerade in, as her dress required such an ornament, and he lent it to her. We went also to this entertainment, and Mr. Sayer appeared in the character of Mungo. He observed to Mrs. Baddeley, as Lady Townshend passed him, that

that she was the only woman, except herself, that he had any partiality for; and that, if it was possible, he would decorate his Lordship's temples with some curled ornaments. "For," added he, "it will be only tit for tat, as Lord Townshend was treacherous and base enough to rob his son Lord Ferrers, of his Lady." Mrs. Baddeley took Lord Townshend's part, and said, it was a proof that she liked the other best, by marrying him. "But," added she, "if *you* run after Lady Townshend, I will go and see my Lord; and then I shall be even with you."

On our return home from this masquerade, we were told, that a lady had
been

been at our house, and made such a noise and disturbance at the door, that she got a mob round her; and had it not been for my brother, who called to see me at the same time, all the windows would have been broken. This woman said, she was the wife of a gentleman whom Mrs. Baddeley kept from her, and that he was then in the house. The story so enraged the mob, that they swore they would pull the house down, if she was not let in. The maids declared there was no man in the house; but, when my brother came, he asked her who her husband was. She said, "Mr. Sayer, the sheriff." "If you are his wife," said my brother, "it would be more prudent in you to go home,

“ home, than make such a disturbance
“ in the street, at this time of night.”

She then began to abuse him; and, as she would not go away, he charged the watch with her, and sent her to the round-house; and she was, the next morning, bound over not to come to Cleveland-row again. This made Mr. Sayer stare not a little; he declared he was not married, and could not divine who the woman could be. In the morning came my brother, and told us all that passed; said, the woman called herself Mrs. Pearson, and he found she lived in Berner's-street, Oxford-road, and had lived there six years in good credit, in a house of her own: that Mr. Sayer got acquainted with her at a
time

time he was in great distress; that she took him in, received him as her husband, and cloathed him; that, she had lent him money, and had sold out her little fortune to set him up as a banker, and could not get a single guinea back; that he had ruined her, and now forsook her; and, that two gentlemen, who lived in the same street, came to her assistance, and were bound for her.—

“She is a most violent woman,” continued my brother, “and struck me several times, as I was going with her to the watch-house.” I observed to Mrs. Baddeley, that if Mr. Sayer had so served her, he was a villain; and I would tell him so, if he came in my way.

Mr.

Mr. Sayer, on being told of this, said it was all lies, and Mrs. Baddeley believed him. He now proposed to find some means of settling her affairs, and asked her permission to wait on Lord Melbourne, and try what he could get from him. She consented to this; he went, and saw his Lordship; and, as he reported to us, prevailed on him to advance her three hundred pounds, which sum of money he appropriated to his own use; for Mrs. Baddeley never saw a shilling of it. He went also to many of her friends, but what he got I never knew; for he kept the whole to himself, and did not pay a single debt she owed. During this connexion, he frequently requested Mrs. Baddeley to
get

get some of his notes changed into money, which she did by buying some trifle, such as a pound of tea, &c. and gave him the remainder. Mr. White, the tea-man, in Pall-Mall, changed a great many of them. Many a hundred pounds did we thus convert into cash. Mrs. Baddeley's money was now gone, and she did not know what to do, as she was unwilling to ask him for any. I told her, he had lived on her long enough, and I saw no impropriety in doing it. "I would have you ask him," said I, "for fifty pounds of your own
 " money, which he received of Lord
 " Melbourne; *that* you have a right to,
 " as he does not pay it away; for, I
 " have no money to lend you, and how

“ the two hundred pounds will be paid,
“ for which the writ is out, God only
“ knows.” “ Oh,” replied she, “ don’t
“ be uneasy about that; Mr. Sayer says
“ he will bail it.” I told her, I would
not accept his bail; and though I was a
married woman, and could get off from
paying it, I was so sick of law, that I
would rather borrow the money, than
not do it. I paid it in a few days after,
and Mr. Sayer was angry, and said, I
might have lent the money I borrowed
to Mrs. Baddeley, and not have thrown it
away so foolishly. He then asked me,
how much Mrs. Baddeley owed me. I
told him, when I saw he was disposed,
and ready to pay me, I would let him
know, but not till then; and asked him,
if

if he would pay me any part out of what he received from Lord Melbourne. He was not pleased with this ; and, I therefore told him, as he did not seem to make a good use of the money he had of her's, he had better give it to me, and I would dispose of it for her ; or if with that sum, and any money he had to spare, he would pay off a bond I had of Mrs. Baddeley's, I would give her a receipt for nine hundred pounds, which she owed me, besides the bond. " Will you ? " said he. " Yes," I replied, " this instant." " Well then," returned he, " I will consider of it."—I told him, whether he paid or not, it was not very material, as I loved Mrs. Baddeley, and did not ask her for it ; of

course it did not concern him. I went up to Mrs. Baddeley, who was then dressing, and acquainted her with it, and she was of my opinion, that he had no business with any private concerns between me and her. I advised her to ask Sayer for some of the money he received of Lord Melbourne; she did, and his answer was, "I see, Mrs. Steele
" has set you on to ask this, but
" I shall not do it; I expect, shortly,
" to get some more from other friends
" of your's, and will keep this till I
" can make up a pretty round sum, and
" pay it among your creditors: of course
" I will not part with a guinea:" and herein he kept both his word and the money.

I am

I am not able to express, how disagreeable this man became to me. His want of attention, his mode of conduct, and his manner of treating Mrs. Baddeley, was so different to what she and I had experienced, that it quite sickened *me*, who had nothing to do with him, but as an acquaintance. Mrs. Baddeley, before she knew him, was treated by all her fashionable friends and acquaintance, as a person of their own rank; but this man called and ordered her about, and bade her do this and that for him, as if she had been his servant. He used to say, that he hated servants about his person; was affectedly nice, and would have no one to wait on him but her.

Mr. P's bankruptcy, as I before observed, brought many of Mrs. Baddeley's creditors upon her ; and she had no resources to apply to for payment, but the three hundred pounds Mr. Sayer got from Lord Melbourne, and which he would not part with. Several writs were, therefore, taken out against her, but Mr. Sayer bailed them all, and thus prevented her being arrested ; so far indeed he served her : but, the expences of house-keeping he bore no part of, and they were not small. As her money, therefore, was gone, both she and I were obliged to have recourse to our cloaths, and send them to the pawn-broker's. We were soon weary of this, and Mr. Sayer bringing his acquaintance
often

often to dinner with us, I was forced to acquaint him with our situation, and say, that some alteration must take place, for I could support the house no longer. He told me, that he had a plan in view, which would make us both happy, and for the present gave me one of his twenty pound shop-notes, and begged me to get it changed, with a person who would not carry it immediately for payment, but where it was likely to circulate; for, he took some pains to circulate such notes, in order to establish the credit of his banking-house, which he had lately opened. I sent it to a friend of mine, who did not carry it for payment for some time; this pleased him, and he said, we should have as many

many more of them as we had occasion for ; provided we would contrive that they should not be sent immediately to his house, as he had a partner in the business, and was unwilling to draw out more money, on his own private account, than he could possibly avoid.

As soon as Mr. Sayer found that his pocket was touched, he took very great liberties, and assumed a power in the house he never thought of before ; and in a few days told us, that to save expences, he would live wholly with us ; “ and, I mean,” said he, “ to sleep “ here to-night.” Mrs. Baddeley made no answer. Soon after he went out, when I spoke my mind freely to her, and

and told her, I was determined, that if Mr. Sayer came to live with her, I would immediately leave her; for, though I owned it would be a hard task to part with her, I would absolutely do it, though it was at the sacrifice of my happiness. “Do not,” said she, “my dear Steele, say so; for life to me without you, will be not worth having. Besides, my expences have drawn largely upon your little property, and I have no money now to repay you. I confess,” continued she, “that I have a love for Mr. Sayer, by whom I am now with child, and as, owing to my partiality to him, I have lost all my friends, what would be the consequence, was I to object
“to

“ to his living with me ? He would
“ certainly leave me, and I should be
“ more distressed than ever ; for good-
“ ness sake, then, reconcile yourself to
“ his coming here, and let us live hap-
“ pily together.” “ Never,” returned
I, “ let the consequence be what it
“ will.” She cried, and so did I ; but
I had made up my mind on the occa-
sion, and was determined that nothing
should alter my resolution. I told her,
however, I would see her as often as she
pleased, and would be her friend when
I was from her. Mr. Sayer kept his
word, and staid all night. I sat up, and
the next morning asked him, whether
his intent was to reside in the house.
“ Certainly,” said he, “ it is.” “ Then,”
returned

returned I, "I shall leave it." I might
 he said, if I pleased, for that was his
 home. He went to Mrs. Baddeley, and
 told her what had passed, which brought
 her to me; she hung round my neck,
 and begged me not to think of going;
 but I was resolved. Sayer joined us;
 "And how," said he, "have you two
 ladies settled it?" Mrs. Baddeley
 was unhappy, and told him her situation
 with me; that I had lent her all the
 money I was possessed of, had sold
 the little property I had, for her sup-
 port, and had even parted with my
 cloaths for her maintenance. "Well,"
 replied he, "if she has, she must, like
 the rest, sit down with the loss."—
 "Oh, Mr. Sayer," cried she, "how
 cruelly

“ cruelly do you treat me, in thus talk-
“ ing of my best friend, who has ruin-
“ ed herself for my sake ; I would not
“ wish to live, if she is not with me !”

All this, however, answered little purpose : I put on my hat and cloak ; he held Mrs. Baddeley from interrupting me, and said, “ If Mrs. Steele is so
“ obstinate, for heaven’s sake, let her
“ go.” I then said, “ God bless you,” left the room, and the instant after, the house. Mr. Sayer staid with her more than a fortnight, to keep up her spirits, during which time she sent to me, two or three times a day, in the most affectionate way, and hoped I would return. She grew ill, and so did I ; for my love for her rather encreased by my absence,

it brought on a fever, and I kept my bed some days; the measles followed this, and rendered me unable to go abroad for some time. She also was confined to her bed, but as soon as she was able to go out, came to see me, and again intreated I would return with her: my resolution was unalterable; I told her I should be happy to see her at all opportunities, without him, and should Mr. Sayer leave her, would return to her, but not till then. This pacified her a little. She began now to be sensible of my consequence; said, she was always at a loss how to act, and should be an undone woman. I asked her, if she wanted any money; she replied, that on the day I left her, she

had but eighteen-pence, and, that at that moment, she was mistress only of eight shillings. I put ten guineas into her purse, and said, when that was gone, she knew where to come for more. She wept at this, but took it, and asked me, as all her diamonds were gone, if I would give her a pair of paste ear-rings, and other things to imitate them, that she might make a good appearance on the stage. I told her, I would, with pleasure, and purchased her every thing complete in this way, and of the best kind, to the amount of eighty-six pounds. I paid her hoop-petticoat-maker four pounds twelve shillings, for stage hoops, and always gave her a few guineas when she

came

came to see me, or wrote me word that she wanted it. My friends persuaded me never to see her more; and, on an expectation that I would not, advanced me a sufficient sum of money to furnish two houses, which I let, and thus enabled myself to assist her.

Mrs. Baddeley was not, however, with all the love she professed for Mr. Sayer, more faithful to him than she had been to Lord Melbourne; for, soon after I left her, she became acquainted with Mr. George Edward Ramus, one of the Clerks of the Treasury; he professed great things, talked largely of what he would do for her, and by persuasions won her over to his wishes. He was very fond

of her, took all opportunity of being with her, and though she had no reason to complain of his affection, she had of his liberality. He told her, however, that he would do handsomely by her, as soon as he was able ; that he had the best expectations ; that the King was his godfather, took great notice of him, and did him the honour frequently to closet him, and that he should be preferred shortly. This gentleman, however, like her former friends, presently deserted her, and she had only to blame her own credulity.

A clergyman, who used to visit Mr. Sayer and me, was frequently at both houses ; from him I learned, that Mrs.
Bad-

Baddeley would often declare herself under the highest obligations to me, and say how much she loved me; but Sayer being displeased with it, she could not talk of me in his hearing. This gentleman told me, that he feared Mr. Sayer intended some evil against me; for, he often said, if he could put an end to Mrs. Steele's life, he should be happy. What could stimulate him to this, I am at a loss to say, unless it was, that I objected to his living with Mrs. Baddeley. However, when I heard of it, I wrote him a spirited letter, charged him with breaking his oath of office, and that I would make an example of him. This alarmed him much, and he was not easy till I was reconciled to

M 3

him.

him. He came to me for this purpose, with a friend, and sent in his name, saying, he had something of moment to impart, and begged to see me; I sent word, he might then commit it to paper, for that I was engaged, and could not see him. This would not do. He must see me himself, and if I could fix the time, would call upon me again. To be no further troubled with him, I saw him, in company with his friend, and asked him, what he could possibly want with me. He told me, my letter not only surprized him, but alarmed him; and, rather than I should be his enemy, he would make what concessions I thought proper, for any supposed offence he might have given. To enter into
all

all the conversation between us, at this interview, would be far from entertaining to my reader ; let it suffice to say, that I gave him to understand, that Mrs. Baddeley might date her downfall from the hour she became acquainted with him ; that all her friends had deserted her on his account, and that he did not seem disposed to support her, but withheld from her the little money he had of her's in possession ; that, it was this gave me offence ; that his being with her had occasioned a separation between us, and had divided me from all I held dear. He was sorry, he said, that his fondness and attachment to Mrs. Baddeley, should be the occasion of my unhappiness ; that I might still be with her if I pleased, and

and that this separation was an act of my own. I told him, that I was too honest to carry a double face; that I disliked her connections with him; that I detested his principles; and, that I would not live under the same roof with him for the world; but, that if he would not trouble me, or think of me, I would never molest him. This seemed to quiet him, and we parted; but he still cherished vengeance in his bosom, and declared, to a person from whom I heard it, that, whenever an opportunity offered, he would be even with me. That opportunity, however, never offered, and of course, I was never troubled with him.

Mrs:

Mrs. Baddeley was with me as often as she could, and I lent her, at different times, a great deal of money. She came to me one morning, and asked me for the loan of forty pounds. Not supposing it was for her own use, I told her I had not so much by me. She was sure, she said, I had, and hoped I would oblige her. "Tell me," replied I, "the use you
"design it for, and I will go and bor-
"row it." This, she said, she could not do, as she had passed her word to the contrary. "Then," returned I, "you
"must excuse my doing it; for I cannot
"get forty pounds, without some diffi-
"culty." Convinced the money was not for herself, but to serve her friend, I did not find myself disposed to let her
have

have it; for I had sufficient use for all the money I was mistress of; and though I would have strained a point to serve *her*, it did not follow, that I was to distress myself to serve her friend. She was a little hurt at this, and I did not see her for more than a month afterwards; as I would never go, where there was a chance of meeting Mr. Sayer.

In the foregoing part of this work, I promised to shew my reader, that Colonel Morgan, then Captain Morgan, got a rich wife, by accidentally becoming acquainted with Mrs. Baddeley, when she was searching the streets, at midnight, for her cat. This gentleman called
on

on her frequently afterwards, and she introduced him to Mr. Sayer, with whom he became intimate. At Mr. Sayer's house in Oxford-street, he met with a young lady, an heiress to a good estate and a personal property of twenty thousand pounds. She came on business to Mr. Sayer's banking-house, with an aunt, a woman of family and good fortune, under whose care she was. Mr. Sayer cultivated an acquaintance with this family, and, in a few months, married the aunt, introduced his friend Captain Morgan, and he married the niece. The Captain was, in every sense of the word, a gentleman, and I have always understood, made his lady happy ; but Sayer, who

who married the old lady for her money, declared as much ; said, he absolutely hated her, and should have shrunk from the alliance, but that her fortune would save him from ruin. When he told Mrs. Baddeley this, it made her wretched ; for she loved him beyond measure ; and his only plea in his defence was, that as she was a married woman, and could never be his wife ; and as his affairs were so embarrassed, that he should be ruined without money, he thought he could not do a better thing than what he had done ; particularly as it would enable him to give her every thing she wished.

This

This marriage of Mr. Sayer's, so affected Mrs. Baddeley, who was then big with child by him, that she became low-spirited, and kept her bed. Mr. Sayer now took a house for her, at twenty-five pounds a year, in a by-street, adjoining Rathbone-place, in order to be near him and to save expences; here she removed, and being much alone, she fell into a hypochondriac state, and could not bear the day-light, nor the light of a candle; nor dare the nurse have any fire, on account of the light, nor make the least noise. At this time she had not a month to go, and was so ill, that she could neither eat, drink, nor see any one but Doctor Hunter, who attended her daily. By Mr. Sayer's

marriage with this lady, he was enabled to make a very good appearance, but his generosity did not abound to poor Mrs. Baddeley. I was out of town at this juncture, and did not hear of her illness. On my return, Doctor Hunter called on me, acquainted me with the state of Mrs. Baddeley's mind and health, and the danger he thought her in; and said, was I to go and see her, it might restore her; for, at intervals, she would talk, but it was only of me, and the love she bore me; that she fancied herself a supernatural being, and sometimes a China jar, and the like; that her disorder was dreadful, especially in her present situation; and requested me to accompany him, and see whether

weather my visit would work at all upon her mind ; for, that, for two months, she had lived in the dark, and almost without food. He told me, Mr. Sayer had sent to him to attend her, but had not behaved to him as a gentleman ought, and, that nothing would have induced him to continue his attendance but humanity ; and this would lead him to see her daily, till she was delivered. I thanked the doctor for her ; said, I had it not in my power to compliment him for his goodness to her, as I wished ; but would give him a ten pound bank-note on her delivery. This he said would amply pay him, and we then got out the carriage, and went to Mrs. Baddeley. As soon as I entered the room, I begged

N 2

ged some candles might be brought. The nurse opposed it, saying, her mistress would scream at the light. Doctor Hunter thought also it would be wrong; as going in suddenly to her, with a candle, might have a bad effect, in her situation. I acquiesced, and went into her room with Doctor Hunter in the dark. On my saying, "My dear Mrs. Baddeley, how are you?" She cried out, with a tone of despondency, "What! is it my ever dear, dear Mrs. Steele, that speaks to me; or is it some voice that resembles her's? Pray let me see you." A pair of candles were brought, and she sat up on her bed, and seemed to enjoy the light. When I approached her, she
stared

stared me in my face, as if wishing to recollect me ; and as soon as I was known, she threw herself forwards, kissed me, and clung round my neck. She then told me of all her troubles, and begged, for God's sake, that I would stay with her that night. I did, nor would she suffer me to leave her the next day, but would go home with me. By the consent of Doctor Hunter, she was carefully wrapped up ; I put her into a coach, and took her to my house ; and, though I took her nurse with us, I chiefly nursed her myself, and in a few days got her so well, that she could endure the light, and sat up through the day. Mr. Sayer sent often to enquire how she did, but never at-

tempted to come under my roof. After a little time, she returned to her own house, and being in want of many little comforts, and necessaries for herself, and her unborn infant, I procured them for her, and made her a present of them. I went also every day to see her, continued with her as long as my avocations would permit; and sat up every night with her till she was brought to bed. She had a son, as I have mentioned before, and he was christened *Stephen Sayer*. The father, however, though he shewed a proper attention to Mrs. Baddeley in the name he gave the child, was not, in other respects, so attentive as he ought; for, I was obliged to find money for all her uses, and for the support of her house,

house, and paid Dr. Hunter the ten pounds I promised him. She got over this tolerably well, and, at the end of her month, only wanted air; to give her this, I took a furnished house for her, in my own name, in the King's-road, Chelsea, with a good garden; for which I paid forty pounds a year; and all this I did in opposition to my friends, who would not have done any thing for me had they known it. Many of the Nobility, who used to call on Mrs. Baddeley, did me the honour, as soon as I was settled, to call upon *me*, in a friendly way; and their visits were no difference to me, but rather the contrary, as I thus kept up a genteel acquaintance, without expence. Mrs. Baddeley removed

moved to this house, and the air was of great benefit to her. Her child was nursed at home, but Mr. Sayer never saw her above twice a week, being too much taken up with his wife. He made her an allowance, but far from a generous one; as it would not enable her to hire a carriage occasionally, to go out in; and, as she wished for one, I hired a genteel job-coach and horses for her; told her, I would pay the expence of it for three months; lent her money for her necessary uses, and went from my house, near St. James's, every day to see her. Whilst at Chelsea, she recovered her health perfectly, and saw many of her friends; but they were new acquaintance, and such as I was a stranger

stranger to; they were of Mr. Sayer's introduction. One day when I called on her, I met there a young gentleman, who said he was just come from Bath, had rode his horse all night, and was exceedingly fatigued. He seemed very polite to Mrs. Baddeley, and paid her great attention. Mrs. Baddeley told me, this was one of her new friends, to whom she was under many obligations, during the time she was in Cleveland-row; saying, his purse had been always at her command, though she had not troubled him much; that he was a sensible, well-bred man, and she was happy in his acquaintance. When he was gone, she told me, his name was Bate, the Rev. Mr. Bate, Editor of the Morning

ing Post, now Bate Dudley; that he was a very good soul, and had done her many an act of kindness. “Indeed,” said she, “whilst I was in Cleveland-row, he was the comfort of my life;” “as Mr. Sayer did not behave so well as he ought, and I had not you to comfort me. This gentleman visited me, as often as he could, and supplied Mr. Sayer’s place. I own I love him, and, was Mr. Sayer out of the question, I should be happy to live with him.” From these declarations, I found out the intimacy they were upon. Whilst she was at Chelsea, and had a carriage to carry her abroad, she frequented many public places, and took her nurse with her as a companion.

At

At one of these places, she picked up a Mr. Petrie, a Scotch gentleman, who lived in the city. He fell in love with her, followed her home, and begged admittance under a plea of having something material to inform her of. She asked him in; and, he professed a regard for her, hoped she was not engaged, told her he was possessed of a good fortune, would protect her for life, and, to convince her that his intentions were honourable, would settle a hundred pounds a year upon her, before he asked for any favour on her part; and begged she would appoint an attorney, that he might put it in force immediately. She thanked him for his good opinion, and the offer he made her; could

could not say she was wholly disengaged, as she admitted the visits of a gentleman, who indeed had not behaved as he should do, having made no settlement on her. He replied, that was cruel, and he did not deserve her favour. In short, she agreed to receive Mr. Petrie's visits; an attorney was applied to, who drew up the settlement, secured on some stock in the funds; it was signed and executed, and presented to her. She accepted it, but not liking the presenter, began to reflect on the inconvenience she should be subject to; that of receiving the visits of a man she disliked, at any time he pleased. Mr. Petrie proposed staying with her that night, and saying, as he sat by her,

her, how happy a man he was, having her wholly to himself: the word *wholly* so much hurt her, that she jumped up; said, she would never be wholly at the disposal of any man; and would have nothing to do either with him or his settlement, which she took out of her pocket, tore into twenty pieces, and threw into the fire. Mr. Petrie, who seemed to have a great regard for her, was *petrified* at this conduct and sudden change of mind, and could not conceive the reason of it: he would have done any thing to have prevailed with her, but it was to no purpose; she would hear nothing he had to say; would accept no settlement from him, was it ever so great; and was resolved

to see him no more; nor, do I believe she ever did. But she received other visitors, though she took care that I should never see them, for she was always alone when I called, and seemed wrapped up in her infant, and nursed it herself. She told me, she had received a visit from Sir Francis Molineux, and Mr. Damer. That Lord Melbourne had called on her once, she having wrote to him, and begged to see him; that, at this interview she represented her situation to him; but, that he said little to it, and left her, without giving her a shilling.

Having now done all for her that I promised, and by one way or another
having

having given her, and lent her, more than three hundred pounds, besides the sum of two thousand seven hundred and sixty pounds, which she owed me by bond, when we parted; I took my leave of her, being obliged to go out of town for some months, requesting she would take care of herself, and saying, I would see her again on my return. She cried a great deal, but I could not avoid going; however, I gave her twenty guineas, and begged she would write to me, and let me know how she went on.

I had scarce reached home, before her nurse came to me, out of breath, to tell me that Mr. Sayer was taken up, on a charge of high treason, and committed

to the Tower; and, that her mistress was in such agonies, that she did not know what to do with her; and begged I would return to her. I flew to Chelsea, and found her in such agonizing fear and dread, as would have moved a heart of stone. She knew well Mr. Sayer's principles; how many severe things he had said of the Royal Family; and feared, as I did, that death would be his portion. She was so wretched, that it was some time before I could pacify her; when she begged on her knees, that I would never divulge what I had heard him say. "I am afraid," said she, "that I shall be sent for; if I am, I am determined not to go, and hope you will not."

Sayer

Sayer at this time was forbidden the use of pen, ink, and paper; but he procured it nevertheless, through the means of the Warden of the Tower; and this man's wife conveyed many of his letters, where they were addressed. Mrs. Baddeley received several from him during his confinement. In these he entreated her not to be unhappy, for he should not long be imprisoned, as the charge against him could not detain him; and that he should be with her in a few days. In one of these letters, he said, "If I live, I will bring up my dear boy from his infancy, to hate a traitor; and will study to ground such sentiments in his heart, against the author of my confinement, as he merits."—

She afterwards shewed me this letter, and my reply was, "I see he will not be easy, till he gets a halter round his neck."

I now took my leave of her a second time, went out of town in the month of July, and did not return for ten months. In this time I had many letters from her, acquainting me with her situation, and telling me, that Mr. Sayer was a bankrupt, and did nothing for her; and that she was reduced to the necessity of finding a new friend, which she fortunately had met with. This friend, was Mr. Brereton, the player, who pretended to have a great love for her; but on the contrary, I soon after
heard

heard that she was ill, and very dangerously so, and that she owed her illness to him. Of course she soon left him, and took up with Mr. Webster, another player, of Drury-lane theatre, with whom she said, she was as happy as she could wish; that she would be industrious, and that, with their joint earnings, they should be able to live comfortably. She frequently wrote me word of his kindness and attention to her, and I believe they were happy in each other. During her continuance with Mr. Webster, she played constantly at Drury-lane, and had two children by him. In the summer, she went with him to Ireland, and performed there, where she lay in of her first child. The
time

time of their engagement at Drury-lane, drawing near, they were obliged to leave Ireland. She had then been brought to bed but three days, and yet determined to go to England with him; for, so fond was she of him, that she would not be left behind. Though she was not in a situation to be moved, she set off with him the fourth day after her delivery, and travelled with him all the way to London; by which means she caught cold, and was ill for a long time after, and her child died. She and Mr. Webster continued together for two or three years; when a severe fit of illness took him from her, and he died in her arms. This event made her very unhappy, and she was like a woman distracted. I was
at

at this time on a visit in the country; did not receive her letter, respecting the death of Mr. Webster; of course did not hear of it, till my return to town, which was some time after; when Mrs. Baddeley came to me in the utmost distress; said, she was with child by Mr. Webster, when he died, and, that the little he left her, his friends took from her, and at the same time, such things as belonged to her; and, that she had never been able to recover them; that, she lived in a small house in Pimlico, for which she paid twenty-five pounds a year; that she had not a month to go, and was destitute of every necessary both for herself and her infant; for, that necessity had obliged her to make away
with

with every thing she had, of any value; that her great friends had forsaken her, and that she had scarcely common necessities. At this time I was in business, and in partnership with a woman, who did not like Mrs. Baddeley; and, not having much money to command, I could not do for her as I wished; but, all that I could do, I did. I sent her three guineas every week, and a variety of cloaths, both for herself and her child. One day I went to see her, and took with me some new things I had purchased to make her comfortable; for, she had then been delivered of her infant, and was in a fine way to do well. I knocked at the door, and it was opened by a man genteelly dressed in black; a
black

black silk waistcoat and breeches, and a pair of black silk stockings, with his hair well-dressed. He asked me who I wished to see; and, when I said, Mrs. Baddeley, he replied, "Oh, I beg your
" pardon, I presume you are Mrs.
" Steele; please to walk up." He followed me, opened the chamber door, and said, to Mrs. Baddeley, "Here is
" Mrs. Steele, Ma'am, come to pay
" you a visit;" then bowed, retired, and shut the door.—Having enquired about her and her infant, I asked who that gentleman was, that ushered me up. She said, it was John. "What
" John?" cried I. "John," returned she, "that lived with Mr. Webster."
"What does he do here?" was my
next

next question. "I will tell you," said she; "but, as a long history hangs to this part of the business, which you will not like; don't enquire farther into it, for the present; I will reserve this story for you, till the next time I see you." I could not prevail on her to say more on the subject that day; she begged me to come the next, when I should be fully acquainted with the matter. I told her I would, if possible; and, on her saying, there were some few things which she wished to have; I bade her tell me all her little wants, and I would either bring them, or send them to her. The next day I went to her again, and took with me those articles she mentioned, and many others, which

I thought

I thought would add to her comfort, and found her in better spirits than the day before. She then begged me to promise, on her relation of John's story, not to forsake her for her folly. I told her, that if her folly would have led me to it, I should have forsaken her long since; for that I knew her to be so eccentric a character, that nothing would surprize me. She said, her imprudence was always, on reflection, a greater punishment to her than she was able to bear or encounter with; but, that what she had done, was now too late to recall, and therefore idle to repine at. "On the death of poor Webster," continued she, "whom I dearly loved, I thought I should have gone
VOL. VI. P distracted.

“distracted. John was his favourite
“servant; and, when his master was
“dead, he took such a share in my af-
“fliction, that I could not but value him;
“he staid in the room with me, stood
“by me, watched me, and paid me
“more attention than I can describe;
“and, when he took his wages, felt for
“my distressed situation, and laid it all
“out for my use. Seeing myself neg-
“lected by all mankind, and having
“with me a relation, a woman of lit-
“tle character, who drowned her own
“reflections by drinking brandy; she
“gave me so much of the same, as to
“get into my head.” Now, to do
Mrs. Baddeley justice, I must say,
drinking was a failing she was never ad-
dicted

dicted to ; for, whilst we lived together, no one was more temperate ; and, I can declare, with truth, that I never saw her drink three glasses of wine at dinner or supper, in my life, nor did she ever taste a dram. But this woman, she said, prevailed on her to take a large glass of brandy, which, together with her grief, so overcame her, that she was put to bed senseless ; and how it happened she could not tell, but in the morning she found John by her side. She owned, that his tender behaviour to her had won her ; that she did not resent his conduct, and that from that day to this he and she had lived together as man and wife. She took some pains to reconcile me to this event ; said John was

a good young man, did not presume on the partiality she had for him, but acted still as her servant; and, that neither her nurse nor her maid knew any thing of the connexion.

I heard her out, but my grief at heart was so great, that I was unable to utter a word. I cried exceedingly, and she seemed equally agitated. Knowing, however, that she had lain in but a week, and that it hurt her to see me so affected; I endeavoured to compose myself, and begged she would do the same, and to say no more; but, she still went on; “and to add to all this, I am fool
“ enough to like him, in preference to
“ all men, and cannot help it, though
“ my

“ my ruin was to follow.” She then threw her arms round me, and with tears in her eyes, said, “ Oh ! my dear “ Steele, had you been with me, no- “ thing of this kind would ever have “ happened !” I entreated her to drop the subject, but in vain ; she said, it gave her ease and pleasure, to unbosom herself to me , hoped I would not forsake her, for her imprudence, but consider it only as a piece like the rest. I told her, that with all her faults, I loved her still ; that I could have wished her, indeed, to have acted with more prudence, but that if she could forgive herself, I had little to say upon the subject ; that I certainly never would forsake her,

but would think of some mode of settling them.

Whilst we were in this conversation, we heard a loud rapping at the door; I went to the window, and saw a lady, in an elegant little phaeton, with four beautiful poneys, and two little post-boys, in blue and silver jackets: I mentioned this to Mrs. Baddeley, and she cried, “ Good God ! John, who is it ? ” “ Ma’am,” said he, “ a lady wishes to see you, whose name is Robinson.” “ Desire her,” said Mrs. Baddeley, “ to walk up; this is,” continued she to me, “ the person the Prince of Wales is so fond of.” She came into the room, and politely paid her respects to

Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley, who was in bed; gave her joy of her little one, and on being told, I was an intimate friend, entered on the nature of her visit, which was to present her with ten guineas, from his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, with his compliments; and to say that he received her letter, begged her to enquire into Mrs. Baddeley's situation, and to tell her, that if she wanted more, he would send a further supply. She begged Mrs. Baddeley's pardon for not waiting on her the day before, as she meant to do; had not the Prince of Wales, who was then at her house, prevented her.

Mrs,

Mrs. Baddeley gave her a particular account of the situation she was in, and the treatment she had experienced, from those who professed a friendship for her; which, when Mrs. Robinson heard, she cried out, “Oh, the ingratitude of mankind!” And shed a few tears, unperceived by Mrs. Baddeley; which induced me to conceive her to be a woman, in spite of all her errors, possessed of the finer feelings: she promised not only to represent her case properly to the Duke of Cumberland, but to use her interest with the Prince of Wales, in her favour. As Mrs. Baddeley let her visitant into the whole history of her amours, Mrs. Robinson was no less communicative on her part. She talk-
ed

ed a great deal of her husband, and spoke of him with respect; and said, though they did not live together, they were on friendly terms, and always spoke to each other, when they met. She condemned him only for extravagance, saying, that he drew her purse-strings too often; but, that as he was her husband, she could not refuse him. The Prince, she said, had made a point of it with her, that she never should see him; and as he loved her, to the greatest degree, she could not refuse a compliance with his wishes; but, her husband knowing this, watched her motions, and contrived to meet her, always when she rode out for the air, at which times he generally emptied her purse. She spoke
highly

highly of the Prince of Wales, gave us many instances of the goodness of his heart, in relieving objects of distress; and told us, that her acquaintance with him, was earlier than the public supposed; that when she first knew him, he was but fourteen years of age; and yet, though he had not then the command of a great deal of money, he was always very liberal to her, and with him she was the happiest of women. “Many
“a time,” continued she, “has the
“poor dear boy got out of his bed,
“when he was at Kew, and come to me
“in the middle of the night, at the
“inn, at Kew-bridge.” “How do you
“mean?” Said I, “got out of bed?”
“Yes,” replied she, “their Majesties
“always

“ always paid such attention to their
 “ children, as to go and see them every
 “ night after they were in bed ; and of-
 “ ten has the dear Prince got up after
 “ this, dressed himself, and with the
 “ assistance of his brother, the Duke of
 “ York, climbed over the garden-wall,
 “ after mid-night, and come to me ; staid
 “ some hours, and returned home over
 “ the wall again, before day-light ; un-
 “ known to any one, but his brother ;
 “ so that his affection for me, is of no
 “ short duration.” She now begged
 our servant to see whether her pages
 were ready, for so she called her little
 postillions ; and when they were mount-
 ed, she took her leave of us, promising
 to wait on Mrs. Baddeley again. When
 she

she was gone, Mrs. Baddeley observed, that the Duke's bounty was small, but probably, he might wish to be better acquainted with her situation, before he sent any sum of consequence. She now began again with the story of John; but I told her, I had heard enough, and did not wish to hear any more; that I would consider what could be done for them, and when I came again to see her, which should be in a few days, I would talk further on the subject.

This conduct of her's, hurt me beyond measure; to see her attached to a low-bred fellow, not possessed of a shilling, nor in any way to earn his bread, but as a servant; to think that she should thus
fall

fall from all her splendor, to take up at last, with a man of this stamp, cut me to the soul; but, as I could not make it otherwise, I was obliged to be quiet under it.

In a few days after, I called on her again, and found her well enough to go out; she was to play a day or two after, in the *Maid of the Oaks*. She told me, she had seen Mrs. Robinson a second time; but, she brought her no money; that, as her engagement was near out at Drury-lane, she would teach John to be a player, and would try her fortune with him in Ireland or in Scotland. “Indeed,” continued she, “I do not apprehend, that if I would

“ continue at Drury-lane, that they
“ would engage me ; I am therefore de-
“ termined to see what I can do at
“ some other place ; for I can be hap-
“ py with John any where ; and if I do
“ not live so well as I have done, I
“ shall be contented.” I found it was
of no use to talk to her ; therefore, left
her to act as she pleased. She never
introduced this fellow to me, and as he
did not presume to sit down where I
was, I had no cause to complain on that
account.

Her engagement at Drury-lane ex-
pired with the season, and, as the ma-
nagers did not propose a fresh one, she
sought for other employ. At this time,
Mr.

Mr. Louthburgh, the painter, had an exhibition in Lisle-street, which he called the *Eidophusicon*. He engaged Mrs. Baddeley to sing there, and paid her handsomely for it; and it answered his purpose well, for she drew a great deal of company. This was the last public place she performed at in London; but meeting with a good engagement, to perform in Ireland, she collected some money from me and other friends, and took an affectionate leave of me, saying, "God bless you, my dear Steele, " for what you have done for me; but " something tells me, I shall never see " you more." I told her, if she would come back to me, when her engagement was out in Ireland, I would do all

in my power for her; and, in her absence, would endeavour to procure her one in London. She thanked me; but, begged me not to trouble myself, till I heard from her; and that she would write to me, and inform me how she went on. She had sufficient money with her to make her journey comfortable, and we parted; true enough, never to meet again; for after this, we never saw each other. She played one season in Ireland, and was very much liked; but as the profits of the house did not answer the expectations of the manager, she, with her paramour John, left Ireland, and went to Edinburgh, where she played for about two years. Her pay there was barely sufficient to support

port them ; but, as she was much beloved by the performers ; when her health declined, (for she fell into a consumption,) and she was able to play no longer ; they, greatly to their honour, subscribed a weekly sum, to afford her all the comforts a sick bed required, and a proper person to attend her. She wanted not, in this worst of situations, the best medical advice, but her constitution was so far broken, as to be irrecoverable ; and, after lingering a few months, she departed this life at Edinburgh, in the month of July, 1786, in the 38th year of her age, and was there buried.

CONCLUSION.

We have now gone through the history of a woman, who, in her day, attracted the notice of some of the first characters in the country where she lived; and though, if great effects arose only from great causes, I should not have thought her life of that importance in itself, as to merit the public attention; yet, as many momentous events have had their rise in very insignificant sources, I am of opinion, that these memoirs may not be without their use.

It is natural then to enquire, what is that use, which has entitled the Memoirs of Mrs. Baddeley to a public introduction. Sorry am I to say, that the flattery of the age, the treachery of mankind, and the credulity of the person herself, caused her to fall a victim to folly; and, I trust the reader will agree with me, that, as the pilot who can guide us, with safety, through the shoals and rocks that endanger our voyage, is to be preferred to him who knows only how to steer through the pacific deep; so, that conduct which leads to the shipwreck of peace and happiness, is the surest index to point out to the incautious, the many rubs and disappointments in a life of dissipation,

tion, concealed under the mask of gaiety ; and, that we befriend the cause of virtue, by exposing the deformity of vice.

It is a maxim, universally allowed, that no person becomes abandoned in the extreme, all at once ; but, that vice gathers strength by a slow gradation ; as every step taken towards viciousness, weakens more and more the remorse of conscience ; and of course, a victim to successive delusions becomes progressively more unhappy, the farther she strays from the paths of innocence.

Had education and domestic example made on Mrs. Baddeley's mind,

th

that impression they should have done, from the manner in which she was brought up; it would have preserved her in that line of rectitude, that would have ensured her a quiet, in more advanced years, which dissipation is ever a stranger to. She had endowments of mind and person, that would have rendered her a tender and endearing partner of domestic life; and, was possessed of all that any man could desire, to make him happy in a conjugal state.

That credulity, which was the foundation of her misfortunes, when her unguarded heart was first seduced from filial duty, and she took refuge from the temper of her father, in the house of a neighbour,

neighbour, would have secured her a lasting bliss, had she met with a fond and indulgent husband. For, the first impression a female heart feels for the object of it's affections, is fervent and sincere. Honour, and the possession of a heart, which it is virtuous to avow an attachment to, give birth to exquisite happiness. Let a woman enjoy all the indulgencies of wedlock, where honour cements the union ; and her gratitude and fidelity will be beyond surprize and interruption. She thinks, she speaks, she looks, she acts only for the object consentaneous to her wishes ; every emotion of her soul inclines towards him ; is solely occupied by him : there is not a vacancy to admit any thing extraneous, and

and every endeavour to supplant the possessor of her heart, is rejected with scorn and with horror.

But, when such a woman comes to find the happiness she fondly thought herself possessed of, to be merely a delusion ; when she finds herself constrained to make a sacrifice incompatible, with the tenderness of her affections, the purity of her morals, or the dictates of her conscience ; what horrors must she feel, and what disgust must ensue ! That this was Mrs. Baddeley's situation, is as true as the facts stated in this work, which her co-temporaries, and admirers, who still survive her, can bear testimony to ; but which tenderness to her

her husband, being in public life, and depending on the favour of the town, has induced me to pass over in silence.

However hardly her unhappy fate dealt with her, in her first entrance within the lists of love, we have seen, that after she lost the protection of Mr. Holland; which she accepted of, in consequence of a misunderstanding between her and Mr. Baddeley; that her heart was not unsusceptible of a warm attachment. The Honourable Mr. Hanger acquired an interest in her heart; with him, that spring which was bent to mutual love, recovered all it's former tone; she was constant and tender to him; and, as a proof of her affection,

fection, she exhausted all the valuables she possessed, and spent her salary for their mutual maintenance: but, *his* attachment not surviving her means, he abandoned her to want, and the attempt she made on her life, in consequence of this cruel and unmerited treatment, puts the sincerity of her love beyond a doubt.

Having become thus the dupe of mankind, more than once; it is not to be supposed, but, that the fervency of her attachments must have been abated; and, that the lessons of infidelity she had learned from others, should have influenced her own conduct, in her future intercourse with mankind: but, her

experience did not suggest to her the expedient of making reprisals on the other sex; it went no further than to induce her to act on the defensive, and keep herself from falling a victim to future attempts upon her peace. This resolution for some time she persevered in, by my advice; but no retreat could exclude the importunity of admirers. Vanity at so much attention paid her, by so many distinguished personages, is not, indeed, inexcusable; but, it was vanity unaccompanied with avarice; for we have seen, that, through the whole course of her life, she seldom was devoted to gain. She ever had her favourites, and her attachments were unfortunately contrary to her interest.

Extra-

Extravagance and show were her reigning foibles; secure in the smiles of the present day, she never looked forward to a future one: but reckoned on the influence of the transitory attractions of youth and beauty, as if they were permanent and durable. Reflection in this case never comes, but with regret and repentance; and, if Mrs. Baddeley had the pleasures of life at command, for a series of years, yet all this splendor was but the fore-runner of distress and compunction. She lived to see the two faces of the world, and the curtain did not drop, till she was convinced of it's ingratitude.

R 2

I wish

I wish not to be understood, that in the publication of these Memoirs, or in what I have now said, that I wish to espouse the cause of vice, or folly. A bare recital of facts, as they occurred, cannot be deemed a creation of the fancy, to inflame the passions, mislead the judgment, or vitiate the heart. I have done no more than the most chaste and correct writers have done before me; having only related, what they have depicted. Youth has ever had it's extravagance, and it's folly. I have produced facts with *real* names; they produce facts with *fictitious* ones. I have thrown the cap at individuals; they fling it at the crowd; but, whilst I level at one, I do not miss the crowd; and yet
advise

advise the individual not to think, that either he or she is the butt, or solitary mark, as in the circle wherein they move, there are multitudes that deserve the stroke.

Before I close this work, I must again repeat, that I have neither exaggerated, or misrepresented facts; but on the contrary, through lenity and delicacy, have suppressed many circumstances, which are as well authenticated, as those which are here set forth. It may be urged by some, that the volumes are too explicit, and pregnant with *tender rencontres*; but this charge comes against the existence of the work itself, with more force than against such particular exceptions; for,

the fact is, that were they expunged, the whole work must be annihilated ; and had I complied with this criticism, I should have acted like the strolling company, that announced the tragedy of *Hamlet*, to a country audience, but requested them, to excuse the omission of the part of Hamlet, for that night : and although this good-natured audience, consented to the omission, and suffered the play to go on ; yet this condescension did not sufficiently encourage me to expect a similar indulgence from my readers.

I shall now take my leave of them, with calling upon their philanthropy, in behalf of Mrs. Baddeley's memory, and
to

to request that neither asperity nor censure, may engross the place of generosity and compassion; but that those who have been made acquainted with her frailties, will say, as Lord Chesterfield did, when he spoke of the dissipation of the great Bolingbroke; "Poor human nature!" Let them remember also, that it is the weaker part of human nature, they have been viewing; a helpless, unprotected woman, whose life will be a lesson to her own sex, and a warning to the gay and thoughtless, who think as she once did, that they shall never experience a bitter reverse to their present mad career.

F I N I S,

ERRATA.

Vol. I. That Letter at the end, without a name,
was written by Mr. Sayer.

Vol. III. p. 109, last line but one, for *his*, read
my.

Vol. IV. p. 200, line 10, for *un-* read *unless*.

Vol. VI. p. 96, line 7, for *Honiton*, read *Hinton*.

Ditto, Mr. Sayer's Letter was not directed to
Mr. Harding, but to Robert Townson, Esq.



ERRATA.

Vol. I. That Letter at the end, without a name,
was written by Mr. Sayer.

Vol. III. p. 109, last line but one, for *his*, read
my.

Vol. IV. p. 200, line 10, for *un-* read *unless*.

Vol. VI. p. 96, line 7, for *Honiton*, read *Hinton*.

Ditto, Mr. Sayer's Letter was not directed to
Mr. Harding, but to Robert Townson, Esq.



ERRATA.

Vol. I. That Letter at the end, without a name,
was written by Mr. Sayer.

Vol. III. p. 109, last line but one, for *his*, read
my.

Vol. IV. p. 200, line 10, for *un-* read *unless*.

Vol. VI. p. 96, line 7, for *Honiton*, read *Hinton*.

Ditto, Mr. Sayer's Letter was not directed to
Mr. Harding, but to Robert Townson, Esq.



ERRATA.

Vol. I. That Letter at the end, without a name,
was written by Mr. Sayer.

Vol. III. p. 109, last line but one, for *his*, read
my.

Vol. IV. p. 200, line 10, for *un-* read *unless*.

Vol. VI. p. 96, line 7, for *Honiton*, read *Hinton*.

Ditto, Mr. Sayer's Letter was not directed to
Mr. Harding, but to Robert Townson, Esq.